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20 PAGES 150 FILS

Govt collapses as Shamir sacks Peres

Palestinians pleased; Israelis dismayed



A demonstrator is about to hit a cartoon showing Gorbachev as a crowned czar during a rally in Moscow as the Congress of People's Deputies discussed giving Gorbachev extended presidential powers. Crown reads: 'President of the Empire.' (Reuters wirephoto)

Gorbachev routs opponents

Super president

MOSCOW, March 13, (Agencies): Mikhail S. Gorbachev today won parliamentary approval for a strong presidency he says is essential to hold the country together and pursue reform.

The Congress of People's Deputies also reversed 70 years of Soviet tradition by approving a multi-party political system and legalising private ownership of factories.

The Congress, meeting in a special session, ended the Communist Party's guaranteed leading role in Soviet society by legalising alternative political parties.

Independence 'illegal'

MOSCOW, March 13, (UPI): Mikhail Gorbachev, appearing unsure of how to respond to rebellion in the Baltics, today ruled out talks with Lithuania and Estonia but directed a special panel to settle the status of the two republics.

Gorbachev discussed the Lithuania parliament's declaration of independence on Sunday before the Congress of People's Deputies gave him a major political victory by establishing a presidential system in the Soviet Union and ending the Communist Party's monopoly rule.

In Vilnius, the Lithuanian Parliament convened to address the presence of Soviet army troops on its territory two days after the nationalist-dominated legislature declared the republic independent, shed its socialist name and chose a non-communist President.

In Washington, President Bush also appeared to be uncertain about the US reaction to Lithuania's historic step, saying Washington had never recognised the Soviets' 1940 annexation of the Baltics but adding that Moscow has at least some claim to control of the region.

The Lithuanian legislature, dominated by nationalists after the Sajudis independence movement's Feb 24 election triumph, sent Gorbachev a message yesterday asking him to recognize Lithuania as a sovereign nation.

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and say the president must be elected by the people to earn the trust necessary to push through painful but desperately needed reforms.

Republic representatives boycotted the vote saying the proposed post would be too strong for the loose federation of independent nations they see as the future Soviet Union.

The presidency bill creates a chief executive who can propose legislation, veto laws passed by the Supreme Soviet legislature, declare war on martial law, and overrule cabinet members. Vice-President Anatoly Lukyanov said yesterday it also clearly separates executive and legislative powers for the first time.

Lukyanov had said that the bill could create checks and balances on executive power. The bill allows the Congress to recall the President for breaking the law and restricts the passage of legislation to the Congress and the Supreme Soviet, the standing legislature.

The current constitution allows the leadership of the Supreme Soviet — which Gorbachev heads — to issue decrees.

Traditionally, most power in the Soviet Union has been written and in the hands of the Communist Party chief, currently Gorbachev.

Enrile ready to challenge Aquino

MANILA, March 13, (UPI): Opposition Senator Juan Ponce Enrile, charged with rebellion in connection with December's coup attempt, said today he was ready to challenge Corason Aquino for the presidency in 1992.

"There is always a chance that I might land a good blow, and who knows, I might even be lucky enough and will make it," the 66-year-old Enrile told a news conference when questioned about his political plans.

Asked if he was prepared to run against Aquino in two years, Enrile responded, "yes."

Aquino's six-year term expires in 1992. She says she has no plans of seeking re-election, but her political opponents suspect she wants another term.

Enrile, a former defence minister who helped oust former dictator Ferdinand Marcos in 1986, also said he has no plans of joining the rebels. He has been mentioned by mutineers as a possible member of a civilian-military



Enrile

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, March 13, (Agencies): Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir today fired Labour Party chairman Shimon Peres from the cabinet, triggering the collapse of the government coalition over an impasse in the peace process.

A proposal for talks with a Palestinian delegation was the issue that divided Shamir's right-wing Likud Party and the

Barring a sudden reconciliation between the two major parties, the collapse of the uneasy Likud-Labour alliance was likely to put an end to any progress in the peace process for several months.

Shamir said in a statement he dismissed the Labour leader because "he acts and acted to break up and undermine the government."

Peres had repeatedly threatened that Labour might leave the government if Likud did not approve a US peace proposal.

Peres' dismissal and the resignation do not take effect until Thursday, giving Shamir time to call a cabinet meeting tomorrow to seek a compromise. In addition, there was a possibility the Labour ministers could remain in a transitional government if a non-confidence vote was passed before the dismissal and resignations were official.

Shamir told army radio he had fired Peres to prevent Labour from being part of a transitional government.

"We weren't born yesterday," Shamir told army radio. "The intention was clear that Labour wanted to break up the unity government through the no-confidence vote in the Knesset and to keep its ministers in the transitional government."

At a news conference after the cabinet meeting, Peres was pessimistic about reaching a compromise before Thursday.

"We must be led by what is good for the peace process and what is good for (Soviet) immigration," he said. "On Thursday, Labour will express no confidence in the government that has not furthered peace. Immediately afterwards we will try to form a narrow government."

Labour leaders immediately blamed Shamir for breaking up the coalition government that has weathered repeated crises over the peace process since it was formed in December 1988.

"The responsibility of the government breakup is in Shamir's and the Likud's hands," said Labour Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin. He said last-minute talks with Shamir failed to produce an agreement.

The coalition collapse set the stage for weeks of political manoeuvring to form a narrow government and possibly early elections.

Yossi Achimeir, a spokesman for Shamir, said the prime minister would try to form a narrow coalition with the small religious and right-wing parties.

(Continued on Page 6)



Peres



Shamir



Bye, bye, Ivan

A Soviet soldier receives a farewell kiss before boarding a train in Hajmashkar on Monday, west of Budapest, bound for the Soviet Union. Hungary and the Soviet Union have signed an accord to remove 50,000 troops from Hungary by June 30. (Reuters wirephoto)

Talk to Pakistan or lose Kashmir

Benazir warns India

MUZAFFARABAD, March 13, (Agencies): Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, in a hard-hitting speech in the capital of Pakistan, Kashmir, today called on the people of India's Jammu and Kashmir state to press their fight against Indian rule.

"History is with us. Time is with us. God is with us. Therefore victory will be ours," she told a cheering crowd of several thousand at a sports stadium in Muzaflarabad, capital of the state.

"The government calls 'Azad' or 'free' Kashmir."

Benazir warned India to negotiate peace or risk losing Kashmir at "gunpoint" in secessionist violence.

"There can be only one call in Indian-occupied Kashmir and that is for freedom," she said in a fiery speech.

"And the freedom fighters will get their freedom," she said. "Even if it is at gunpoint."

"They will kill and get killed but would not give up the fight for self-determination," Benazir said of the Kashmiri militants in a speech earlier to a joint session of the "Azad" Kashmir Parliament.

Benazir called on India to accept Pakistan's offer for talks to resolve the dispute. She said the United States and the Soviet Union had "failed to defeat the will of the people" in Vietnam and Afghanistan.

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and questioned how India could crush the Kashmiris.

In her speech at the outdoor rally, Benazir said the uprising in Kashmir was entering its "final phase" and said it was Pakistan's "moral, religious and spiritual duty" to give the militants its support.

She called on the United Nations and Islamic countries to stage fact-finding missions to Kashmir "to see for themselves the human rights violations and repression by the Indian government."

The 36-year-old prime minister also urged India to allow foreign journalists to visit Jammu and Kashmir so they could decide for themselves whether Pakistan was sending arms to the militants.

In an apparent reference to fears that India and Pakistan could go to war over Kashmir, the prime minister said Pakistani armed forces were ready to defend their homeland.

She called the Kashmir campaign a freedom struggle and said India had failed to convince the world that the arrest was prompted by Pakistan.

She announced the creation of a special Kashmir fund with an initial Pakistani contribution of rupees 100 million (\$4.8 million).

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I will take risk again: Bush

WASHINGTON, March 13, (UPI): President Bush, hinting that fascinating revelations are ahead, said today he would again risk answering a hoax telephone call if it could lead to freedom for American hostages.

"But what's wrong with reaching out and touching someone, when the hostages are at stake?" Bush asked reporters at a televised news conference.

"The hostages are at stake here, and what's wrong with trying? Look, I feel this all the time. I've talked about this, that I will go the extra mile, and when the whole story comes out on this, you are going to be very, very fascinated with the details, very fascinated," he said.

He said he sent his message after meeting Thatcher.

The UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar is engaged in "confidential diplomacy" on humanitarian grounds in the case of Bazofo.

A British Foreign Office spokesman said: "A number of other countries, domestic and international organisations have joined the campaign to bring pressure on the government of Iraq to commute the sentence."

"There has been no Iraqi response to these appeals for clemency. Our efforts will continue."

The spokesman refused comment on whether Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd or another British minister would visit Baghdad.

Israel starts Judaising E. Jerusalem

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, March 13, (Reuters): Amid a children's chorus, fluttering flags and a government crisis, Israeli Deputy Prime Minister David Levy laid the cornerstone today for the latest Jewish neighbourhood in Arab East Jerusalem.

In defiance of US protest against Jewish expansion in the eastern sector of the city captured and annexed in 1967, Levy, who is also housing minister, called Israel's right to all of Jerusalem, declared the eternal indivisible capital of the Jewish state.

"Nothing is going to stop any Jew from coming here and realising the dream to settle in the heart of this nation — the united capital for which we fought, prayed and sacrificed."

Addressing the United States, he said: "Don't put question marks on Jerusalem. We do not build it to anger you. It is our great duty, our great right to do so."

US President George Bush said today he did not regret his recent comment condemning Israeli settlements in East Jerusalem, which helped provoke a crisis that led to the collapse of the Israeli coalition.

Jerusalem was at the heart of an Israeli government debate over a US proposal for first-ever Israeli-Palestinian peace talks.

Meanwhile, Arab diplomats said today, an Arab League call for an urgent summit reflects growing Arab pressure for joint action to stem the massive influx of Soviet Jews to Israel.

"Arab ministers would not take such a step unless they had a green light from the kings and presidents. If they call for a summit, then they know it is possible," one said.

"It's a real possibility, especially because conflicts between Arab states are at a minimum," added another.

The wave of emigration has been condemned throughout the Arab world because of fears that many of the Jews will settle in the occupied territories and displace Palestinians.

Saudis to set up ties with Soviets

BEIRUT, March 13, (UPI): Saudi Arabia, a longtime US ally, will establish diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union as a result of Moscow's orientation toward democracy, a Lebanese daily and analysts said.

"Formal Soviet-Saudi relations will be instituted within the coming few weeks," the London-based Lebanese Al Hayat newspaper said, citing diplomatic Saudi sources.

The move will be announced during an expected early visit to Saudi Arabia by Soviet Foreign Minister Edward Shevardnadze, said Al Hayat in its Monday edition that was circulated in Beirut today.

Saudi officials and Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Polyakov held in-depth talks on setting up relations during the Soviet official's three-day visit to the Arabian kingdom last week, Al Hayat said.

Riyadh, which has had no ties with Moscow since 1939, has maintained an anti-communist policy. It was critical of the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan and the recent migration of Muslims to Israel.

Polyakov's visit was scheduled to be brief as part of a Gulf tour, but his hosts asked him to prolong his stay to raise several controversial issues concerning Saudi Arabia, notably Afghanistan and the living conditions of the Muslims in the Soviet Union, Al Hayat said.

The Soviet official told the Saudis, Al Hayat said, that Moscow "was keen on getting rid of the repercussions of its intervention in Afghanistan, and had no hand in the recent attempt to topple the Afghan President."

Beirut-based analysts said a rapprochement between Moscow and Riyadh was widely expected as a result of the orientation toward democracy by the Soviets and their Eastern European allies.

"One of the main reasons that led to the positive atmosphere between Moscow and Riyadh was the Soviet's inclination toward democracy that would improve the living conditions of the Muslims in the Soviet Union," a veteran Middle East expert said.

King Fahd, the Saudi monarch, has privately branded Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev as courageous for his determination to continue the process of reforms and openness despite thorny difficulties, Al Hayat said.

Polyakov, interviewed by Riyadh television and radio during his visit, said the estimated 50 million Soviet Muslims were enjoying full political, social and economic rights.

It was the first time the Saudi media interviewed a senior Soviet official.

(Continued on Page 6)

2-day holiday on the way

By Fawzi Al Tameemi

TO have the way for a five-day working week in Kuwait, a study is being conducted by the Civil Service Commission, well informed sources said.

The study, basically proposes increasing the working hours from Saturday through Wednesday to compensate for the loss of work hours for holiday on Thursdays.

The sources added that although the study has realised that there are not enough reasons to have a two-day weekly holiday in Kuwait, yet it admits that "there is a public mood which tends to lean towards refusing duty on Thursdays."

The study underscored that the two-day weekly holiday is presently being practised in numerous countries of the world to permit employees to spend their weekends at home. The study points out that in Kuwait, an employee does not need more than an hour to commute from his place of work to home.

(Continued on Page 6)

BAHRAIN has reportedly permitted expatriates legally staying in other GCC countries to visit Bahrain without the need of a prior visa.

Visas are granted at the airport or border posts on arrival for such visitors, news reports said.

I wish the same policy is adopted in the rest of the GCC member states which would then benefit from the visits of these expatriates and would obviate the need for these expatriates to spend their vacations in other countries.

The fact that some GCC states have become tourist attractions, is an added incentive to provide this facility.

Zahed Matar

Weather

CLOUDY to partly cloudy weather with a chance of scattered rain with light to moderate north westerly wind. State of sea: Moderate to rough. High water: 2.00 am, 2.00 pm. Low water: 8.00 am, 8.00 pm. Sunrise: 5.50 am. Sunset: 5.50 pm.

Maximum temperatures recorded: Kuwait: 26°C 79°F. Ahmadi: 21°C 70°F. Fadhila: 24°C 75°F.

Minimum temperatures recorded: Kuwait: 19°C 66°F. Ahmadi: 20°C 68°F. Fadhila: 20°C 68°F.

Maximum temperatures expected: Kuwait: 25°C 77°F. Ahmadi: 24°C 75°F. Fadhila: 24°C 75°F.

Minimum humidity recorded: Kuwait: 35 per cent. Ahmadi: 31 per cent. Fadhila: 30 per cent.

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ARAB TIMES

Grand Bingo

Numbers for Game No. 76 appear on Page 2.

INTERNATIONAL

Fernandes to co-ordinate on Kashmir

By Thomas Abraham
Arab Times correspondent

NEW DELHI, March 13: Railway Minister George Fernandes has been entrusted by Prime Minister V.P. Singh with the additional charge of Jammu and Kashmir affairs. Fernandes will now co-ordinate all matters relating to the state, where militants are fighting for independence. An official notification issued last night said Fernandes would co-ordinate all actions of the ministries and departments of the union government with respect to matters relating to the state. Simultaneously, the government also

announced the constitution of an all-party committee to assist Fernandes in initiating steps to restore normalcy in the troubled valley. Its members are Surendra Mohan (National Front), Gbular Rasool Kar (Congress), Kedar Nath Sahni (BJP), M. Farooqui (CPI), Saifuddin Chaudhary (CPM) and P.L. Handoo (National Conference).

The advisory committee held its first meeting last night and was scheduled to meet again tomorrow.

The decision to appoint a minister in charge of Kashmir affairs was taken last week at the all-party meeting convened by Prime Minister Singh to discuss the situation in the state.

It was then widely speculated that Fernandes, who was reported to have already established good contacts in the valley, would be entrusted with the responsibility, but the announcement was first made last night by Singh in his address to the meeting of National Front's parliamentary board. Fernandes' main task would be to establish contacts with people in the valley so that the political process in the valley could be resumed at the earliest. There is a feeling that all political parties in the state had become inactive and needed to be "defrosted." The minister is expected to visit Srinagar soon.

Indians leave Trincomalee

Sri Lanka plans house-to-house search for arms

COLOMBO, March 13, (AP): Indian troops pulled out of an eastern town today as part of a withdrawal scheduled to be completed by the end of this month, officials said.

An Indian High Commission, or embassy, official said the troops had moved out of Trincomalee town to China Bay, 9 km (5.5 miles) away.

The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, did not say how many troops were stationed in Trincomalee, 240 kms (150 miles) northeast of Colombo, before the movement. He gave no other details.

China Bay, a Sri Lankan naval base with a deep-water port, is one of the three points being used by Indian troops to leave Sri Lanka. Sri Lankan military officials in Colombo said Trincomalee had been taken over by guerrillas of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, the largest rebel group that fought the Indian troops for more than two years.

Indian troops were stationed in Sri Lanka's northern and eastern districts to enforce a July 1987 accord that aimed to end a Tamil separatist campaign by giving the ethnic minority limited autonomy.



Coming-of-age

Princess Nori is congratulated with a toast by her father, Emperor Akihito (right) and Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu as she celebrates her coming-of-age at the Imperial Palace. The princess actually turned 20 in April 1989, but had to wait almost a year for the ceremony as the imperial family had been in mourning after the death of Emperor Hirohito in Jan 1989. (Reuters wirephoto)

Fist-fighting anew in Taiwanese legislature

TAIPEI, March 13, (Reuters): Taiwan opposition lawmakers pulled hair, threw punches and shoved elderly members of the ruling Nationalist Party to the floor in Taipei's legislature today in a fight over a committee decision.

In a separate incident, helmeted riot police using shields and clubs formed a human wall outside the National Assembly to block 11 opposition delegates from taking their seats.

The fighting in the legislature, between members of the opposition Democratic Progressive Party and Nationalists, was over a decision by the body's judicial committee to forbid deputies last elected decades ago in mainland China from voting on the committee.

DPP legislators attacked Nationalist colleagues as debate raged over the committee's decision, which was taken when most of the mainland-elected committee members were absent.

At the National Assembly, the 11 DPP members were barred from attending today's meeting because they refused to take an

oath to the "Republic of China," the name used by the island's Nationalist government.

Wearing business suits and carrying briefcases, the 11 opposition politicians hurried themselves time and again against the ranks of police, only to be thrust back.

They later sat in silent protest in the meeting hall driveway, which was blocked by barbed-wire barricades.

Nationalist Party deputies inside the assembly debated the wisdom of barring their DPP colleagues, who have disrupted previous meetings by hurling flowerpots, smashing windows and engaging in fist-fights to show their opposition to Nationalist Party rule on the island.

The National Assembly, like the other branches of Taiwan's tricameral Parliament, is dominated by elderly Nationalist Party stalwarts who have not faced reelection since the government fled China for Taiwan in 1949.

The assembly on March 21 will elect Taiwan's next president, which almost certainly will be the incumbent president and party chairman, Lee Teng-Hui.

North Korea denies digging border tunnel

TOKYO, March 13, (AP): North Korea today denied that it had dug a newly uncharted tunnel under the border separating it from South Korea and repeated its demand that the South tear down an alleged border wall.

On March 3, South Korea announced it had discovered a tunnel in the eastern sector of the DMZ. Seoul officials described it as an invasion route, the fourth found beneath the border since 1974. They blamed the North Koreans for digging it.

The North's official Korean Central News Agency said Maj. Gen. Kim Young Chol of the People's Army denied his forces dug the tunnel, and called South Korea's claim that it was a North Korean invasion route "a fiction."

The comments came at a news conference held in the North Korean capital of Pyongyang yesterday.

The news agency, monitored in Tokyo, also said North Korea's Foreign Ministry issued a memorandum demanding that the South tear down a concrete border wall.

The communist North says the South built a wall south of the demilitarized zone separating the two countries, but the South says the structure actually is a series of anti-tank barriers along the border.

The soldiers were supposed to supervise an arms surrender by the dozens of Tamil militant groups.

But the Tamil Tigers, after an initial acceptance, resumed the guerrilla war, collapsing the accord. India sent more soldiers to put down the rebellion and at one point more than 70,000 troops were deployed in the northeast.

The Tamil Tigers started their own peace talks with the Sri Lankan government in May 1989 and a month later President Ranasinghe Premadasa asked India to withdraw all troops by July 27, 1989, the second anniversary of the India-Sri Lanka accord.

After bitter disagreements and a prolonged diplomatic deadlock, the two countries agreed in January on the latest pullout deadline of March 31.

The withdrawal had sparked fears of fighting between the Tamil Tigers and a former rebel group, the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front, which gave up arms in 1987 to join mainstream politics. The front was elected to head the northeastern provincial council in November 1988.

A prominent Tiger leader, Stanley Dominic, said factional fighting will not take place.

"The Indians have taken their boot lickers, the EPRLF with them. So we do not have to fight them," Dominic, the commander of the northern Jaffna area, said in an interview in Jaffna town today.

Dominic's statements came amid reports that EPRLF members were fleeing to India fearing reprisals killings by the Tamil Tigers.

Vantharajah Perumal, the northeastern provincial council chief minister, also was reported to have fled to India on Sunday.

Residents in Jaffna said the Indian troops were leaving every day.

Indian officials have refused to say how many troops remain in Sri Lanka and say the pullout is continuing.

The Sri Lankan police and the island's security forces, will launch a country-wide house-to-house search operation to recover weapons, a high-ranking officer of the joint operations command (JOC) said today.

The Defence Ministry had already called on all persons in possession of firearms, other weapons or explosives, which are unlicensed or with temporary letters of authority, to surrender them to the nearest police station on or before March 1, 1990. Any person in possession of any such weapons is liable to be charged in a court of law, a Defence Ministry official said.

Clean chit for Swarup in spy case

NEW DELHI, March 13, (UPI): An Indian businessman accused of spying for Taiwan, West Germany and the United States was acquitted today, more than four years after his arrest made headlines throughout the country.

Additional sessions judge P.R. Thakur ordered the immediate release of Rama Swarup, 56, who had been in jail or under house detention since his arrest Oct 28, 1985.

"It is only in rare cases that honourable acquittal is recorded and the present case is one of those rare cases where (it) is justifiably necessitated," Thakur said in delivering the verdict to a crowded courtroom.

Javed Siddiqui, a former employee of Swarup who had been fired on bail, also was acquitted of espionage charges.

Swarup and Siddiqui had been charged under the official secrets act with giving classified documents on defence, nuclear technology and other matters to Taiwan, West Germany and the United States.

But the judge said prosecution witnesses failed to offer convincing evidence that Swarup was a spy for any country.

Swarup was the Indian representative of a quasi-official Taiwan trade promotion group at the time of his arrest.

In January 1986, two senior ministers in the government of then-prime minister Rajiv Gandhi resigned after being identified in court documents as Swarup's contacts. No charges were filed against the two ministers.

"The honourable exoneration of the accused Rama Swarup might also be a little solace and consolation to those public personalities who had been hurt by the insinuations and innuendoes in the complaints," the judge said.

Swarup was well-known for his anti-communist views and it was alleged in court documents that he had been paid by American intelligence officers to organise protests against the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan and to run an anti-Soviet propaganda campaign.

Fight against trafficking in women

DHAKA, March 13, (Reuters): Non-governmental organisations in Bangladesh must help create more jobs for women in border areas to keep them from being sold into prostitution abroad, volunteer workers and academics say.

Speakers at a seminar in Dhaka on Monday on "trafficking of women and children" described how unscrupulous relatives or traffickers persuaded impoverished women and children to cross the border illegally with promises of jobs.

The women often end up in brothels in foreign countries and many of the children are sold into slavery as servants, they said.

Speakers at the seminar, organised by the private Institute of Law and Development, included executives of non-governmental organisations, university teachers and lawyers.

An official of one volunteer group said such groups had saved 1,500 people, including 432 women and 385 children, from being illegally out of the country since 1987. They also detained 63 alleged traffickers and later handed them over to police, he said.

The government has said women lured out in this way often end up in brothels in India, Pakistan and some Middle Eastern countries.

Speakers at the seminar said non-governmental organisations working along the border could help keep a better watch out for traffickers.



Boat people repatriated

Another 109 Vietnamese boat people flew back to their communist homeland from Hong Kong on Tuesday under a voluntary repatriation programme.

The flight was the 13th under a UN-supervised programme, and brought the number of Vietnamese who have volunteered to return to Vietnam to 1,383.

The returnees were among about 44,000 Vietnamese who have arrived in this British colony since June 1988, when the government decided to classify arriving boat people as illegal immigrants unless they can prove they face political persecution in Vietnam.

Picture shows the boat people waving to journalists prior to boarding a chartered plane at Hong Kong's Kai Tak airport. (Reuters wirephoto)

Seven dead, 16 missing in India: A crowded boat overturned yesterday while crossing a river in southern Karnataka state, leaving seven dead and 16 others missing and feared drowned, the Press Trust of India said.

The tragedy occurred at dawn on the Krishna River near the gold mining town of Kolhar, 4,075 miles (1,725 km) south of New Delhi, the news agency said.

It said rescue workers recovered seven bodies and at least 16 people were missing and feared drowned.

The news agency quoted police headquarters in the state capital of Bangalore as saying an unspecified number of passengers managed to swim to safety. The news agency gave no further details. (UPI)

South Korea curbs adoption: South Korea plans to phase out foreign adoption of Korean children by 1996 and work to spur domestic adoption, officials said yesterday.

Health Ministry officials said the government has worked out a six-year policy of gradually reducing the number of children sent abroad for adoption. The policy calls for an end to foreign adoption in 1996, they said.

They said the government would increase subsidies and ease restrictions to encourage domestic adoption. Under the plan, tax and other benefits would be increased. (AP)

Ten killed in Pakistan: Pakistani security forces killed seven people when they raided the hideout of Iranian saboteurs planning attacks on Iran, officials said yesterday.

A battle fought with assault rifles and machineguns began on Monday and continued yesterday as around 50 Iranians held out against the Pakistani forces in an arid area of Balochistan near the town of Turbat, 80 km (50 miles) from the Iranian border.

Three Pakistanis, including the top official of Turbat, were killed in the battle. (Reuters)

Accord on Cambodia polls reached: A conference on Cambodia reached broad agreement on Monday about UN-supervised elections but did not decide who should serve on a national supreme council to be set up before the poll, diplomatic sources said.

"Today's talks went reasonably well but it's hard pointing to a specific result," said a Western diplomat. "We now have to look at the detail and the closer you look the more difficult it becomes," one Western diplomat said.

Britain, China, France, the Soviet Union and the United States began exploring the chances of a UN-sponsored peace settlement early this year, saying a bloody flare-up of fighting in Cambodia called for drastic action. (Reuters)

US ready to return spy base: Australian officials say the United States is preparing to relinquish control of an secret spy base in the Australian outback, used to communicate with US submarines in the Indian Ocean.

Foreign Ministry officials said it was "pretty well agreed" that Australia will regain control of the base, which caused controversy when it began operating 27 years ago.

The officials gave no details about the agreement. (AP)

Pledge to guarantee safety: Foreign Minister Ali Alatas said yesterday he will seek France's pledge to take steps to ensure the safety of the Indonesian embassy in Paris.

On Sunday, protesters broke windows and threw tear gas and stones into the embassy building on Sunday. (AP)

Nepal king urged for dialogue

KATHMANDU, March 13, (UPI): A fired government minister today accused "hard-line elements" in the government of thwarting negotiations with the opposition that could help end a violent month-old campaign for multi-party democracy.

Keshav Kumar Budhathoki, fired last week as assistant minister for water resources, also said the lingering dispute ultimately was hurting the image and popularity of King Birendra, who was not the opposition's original target.

"I believe that the king should come forward with a formula (for negotiation) that will be acceptable for all before it is too late," Budhathoki said in an interview with United Press International.

At least 13 people have been

killed in violence since Feb 18, when a coalition of outlawed political parties began waging a campaign of strikes and demonstrations to force an end to the kingdom's 29-year-old ban on such parties.

Prime Minister Man Singh Shrestha, who serves as head of Nepal's partyless Panchayat system under Birendra's ultimate authority, "is working under the pressure of some hard-line elements that have an upper hand in Nepalese politics today," Budhathoki said.

Budhathoki's comments were preceded by a statement issued yesterday by five members of the Nepalese Parliament who also appealed to Birendra to start a dialogue with the opposition and to recognise the "reality that

political parties exist" in Nepal. At least 44 legislators in the 140-member Parliament have now publicly urged Birendra to begin negotiations with the opposition, which has said it does not feel Birendra must be removed as king in order to regain multi-party democracy.

"The popularity of the king is sliding down and his image in the eyes of the people is tarnished," said Budhathoki, who was removed from his government position because of alleged "irresponsibility."

One of the banned opposition parties, the Nepal Communist Party, issued a statement today praising the participation of Nepalese citizens in the movement and asking for international support.

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MORNING 9 A.M. to 1 P.M. EVENING 4 P.M. to 9 P.M.

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Announcement

The offices of the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany will move from the present location in Shamiya to Abdulla Al-Salem District (Dhahia), Area 1, Str. 14, branch of Nuf Al-Yousef Str., Villa No. 13. The Embassy will be temporarily closed during the period from Thursday, 15th March until Sunday, 18th March, 1990 inclusive.

The new numbers of the Embassy are: Tel.: 2520857, 2520832, 2520827 Fax.: 2520763

JALOO LITA

CHARLESTON, West Virginia: Entertainer Bette Midler believes the world would be a better place if more women were in charge.

Midler, who recorded "The Time of My Life," an anthem for the feminist movement, spoke to a group of about 200 people at Marshall University in recognition of International Women's Day.

She listed war, poverty, hunger, children and elderly among female concerns.

"We need more shelters for battered women and children," she said. "We have more shelters for animals than women and children."

Midler, who has been named one of the most powerful women in America, said she has the slightest interest in running for office, do it, she said. (AP)

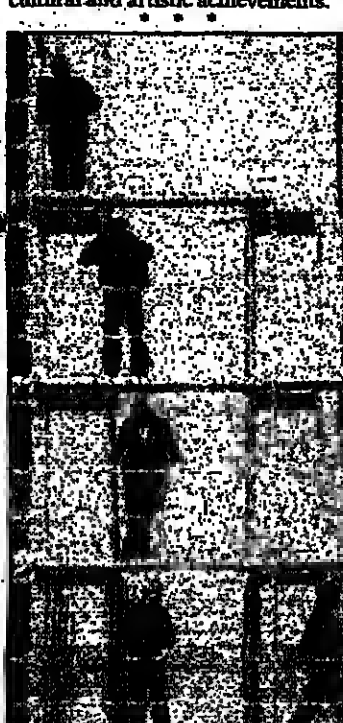
NEW YORK: Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti of Italy, at a ceremony in which he received an honorary doctorate of law from New York University, urged Americans to look beyond stereotypes of his country.

The award coincided with the establishment of a university chair in Italian studies, to be named for Andreotti, the architect of Italy's post-World War II recovery and Andreotti's mentor.

The 71-year-old Andreotti, who has served six times as Italy's prime minister, noted that more than 70 US universities and colleges have set up programmes in Italy.

"The spontaneous germination of a cultural osmosis between Italy and the United States must not serve as a pretext for neglecting the development of these relations. Even today there persists in America a stereotypical vision of our country."

"We would like to offer our American friends a view of Italy as she is today, without masking her defects, without propagandising, but by highlighting her civil, social, cultural and artistic achievements."



Facelifting

Workers stand on scaffolding at the Brandenburg Gate in East Berlin today. The gate will get a facelift and Quadriga statue will be dismantled. (Reuters wirephoto)

BOULDER, Colorado: March 13 (UPI) — A piano in her condominium, but only if she keeps her foot firmly on the soft pedal, a judge ruled.

A neighbour complained that Hoebrock's rendition of Chopin violated a 1981 city ordinance that prohibits Boulder residents from "disrupting the quiet enjoyment of a home."

Municipal Judge Richard Hansen reluctantly upheld the complaint, and fined the pianist \$30. If she wants to continue her hobby, she must perform pianissimo, he said. (AP)

PARIS: More than 100 paintings, drawings and sculpture acquired by French actor Alain Delon over two decades went on display at the Galerie Didier Lambert to benefit cancer research.

The exhibition, titled "Twenty Years of Passion," will run through April 13. Proceeds from the sale of the show's catalogue will be donated to the association for cancer research.

"This collection came about through love and passion, and not in a commercial or speculative spirit," Delon said.

Frogs saved from croaking

TOKYO, March 13, (Reuters): Two tiny frogs won't have to croak, thanks to Japanese animal-lovers.

Four eight mm (one-third inch) long frogs — thought to be the world's smallest — were brought to Japan from the Seychelles for an exotic flora and fauna exhibit at the Osaka Flower Expo opening in April.

But the minuscule amphibians were almost invisible to the naked eye, particularly when they followed their instincts and hid behind leaves.

Yesterday a Tokyo daily reported that the expo organizers planned to kill two of them, preserve them in formalin and put them on show under magnifying glasses so that visitors didn't have to strain their eyes.

"Many people called us yesterday and said it was ridiculous to take the lives of such tiny frogs for such a purpose," an expo official said today.

"It was a reasonable reaction, so we've decided to show videos of the frogs instead."



Maggie joins fashion stakes?

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher joined the fashion stakes with models Carla and Danny at a London fashion week reception at Lancaster House in London on March 12. Thatcher, ignoring talks of a leadership crisis, vowed to stay in power as fresh violence flared in simmering nation-wide protest against a new tax. (Reuters wirephoto)

Tutor kills wife, kids, self

LINCOLN, Kansas, March 13, (AP): A high school art teacher shot his wife and daughters to death as they slept yesterday, then killed himself, authorities said.

Grade school principal Dean Collins asked the sheriff's office to check on the family when Joe Pianalto, 34, didn't report for work and his daughters, Annie, 8, and Jennifer, 6, didn't report to school.

Sheriff Don Panzer said he found Shirley Pianalto, 35, dead in her bed with a gunshot wound to the back of the head. The children were in their bed, also dead of head wounds.

Pianalto's body was behind the girl's bed, a hunting rifle at his side, Panzer said. The teacher's wound appeared to be self-inflicted, the sheriff said.

ZURICH, Switzerland: Police said on Monday that a painting by Vincent van Gogh, valued at 2.5 million Swiss francs (\$1.8 million), has been reported stolen from a customs warehouse.

The canvas, "Wheat Field with Sky," measuring 28.5 by 37 centimetres (11 by 14 inches) and dated 1888, was to be shown to a potential buyer last Friday but the safe containing it was found to be empty, police said. (AP)

Snails

Where did they go?

HEBBURN, England, March 13, (AP): Police said yesterday they were investigating the theft of 153,000 edible snails from a factory farm, perhaps by animal rights activists.

Police said the snails were taken from Organic Delicatessen International, a town of Hebburn, a town of Hebburn, some time between Wednesday afternoon and Friday afternoon, and that slogans were found written on walls of the premises.

"There were some sort of animal rights slogans, but we don't know for sure," said a spokeswoman for Northern Ireland police, who wasn't identified, in accordance with British custom. "We're investigating the matter."

LINCOLN, Nebraska: Convicted Watergate figure Charles Colson says America is losing a generation of children because they're not being taught right from wrong.

"We have come to a point where we don't believe in absolutes. Schools are not value neutral, they're value hostile. We're losing a generation because we're not teaching them right from wrong," he said.

He said it's not enough to teach children to just say no. "We need to teach them why you say no."

Colson, 58, former special counsel to President Nixon also told the 1,200 people attending a Nebraska leadership prayer breakfast about his prison fellowship ministries. It has 250 full-time employees and 33,000 volunteers.

"The love of God takes us into those dark holes, witnessing to prisoners and their families," he said. (AP)

LOS ANGELES: The Roman Catholic Archbishop of Los Angeles has written to priests and nuns in his archdiocese asking them to enlist volunteers to test a new AIDS drug.

In his letter to 3,500 priests and nuns, Archbishop Roger Mahoney said he was seeking 10 volunteers over the age of 65.

A spokesman for Mahoney said the letter did not specifically say the volunteers must be members of the priesthood, or nuns, although this may have been "implied" in the communication.

A report in the Chicago Tribune newspaper said Mahoney had asked nuns and priests 65 and over to volunteer because they were the least likely to have caught the deadly disease, which is contracted mostly through sexual intercourse and the use of intravenous drugs.

The vaccine to be tested has been developed by Dr. James Salk, father of the polio vaccine.

AIDS kills by robbing the body of its immune responses, leaving it prey to diseases that would not normally be fatal. (Reuters)

Santa Barbara film fest honours 'Goin' to Chicago'

SANTA BARBARA, California, March 13, (UPI): "Goin' to Chicago," a film about personal relationships in the 1960s, beat out a dozen international contenders to claim the first-ever best of Fest award at the fifth Santa Barbara International Film Festival.

More than 23,000 people attended movies during the 10-day festival that ended Sunday night and featured 90 films from 10 countries, including eight world premieres and seven US premieres.

The film that won the festival's best of Fest Award, "Goin' to Chicago" by filmmaker Paul Leder, chronicles the lives of

several people, black and white, as they struggle for their personal and political beliefs in 1968.

The festival has never before given out an award, which this year was chosen by film goers voting by written ballot. Only US and world premieres were eligible for the award.

Although the top premiere for the festival, John Waters' new comedy "Cry Baby," was pulled by Universal Pictures because of editing problems, festival organisers still considered the festival a success.

"Business — that is ticket sales — was

up 53 per cent from last year," said Sheila Barr, festival spokeswoman. About 15,000 people attended in 1989.

Although not in the league of the Cannes, New York or Toronto festivals — all of which are juried — the Santa Barbara event has become popular with both regional and international film fans.

"More than 25 per cent of those attending this year were from out of town," Barr said.

Held in the historic district of Santa Barbara, the festival's films were shown in 15 theatres all within walking distance of each other along tree-shaded State Street,

a few blocks from the Pacific Ocean.

Among the surprise hits of the festival this year were the French farce "Mama, There's a Man in Your Bed," the British thriller "Black Rainbow," starring Rosana Arquette, Tom Hulce and Jason Roberts, Academy Award-winning director Chuck Workman's "Superstar" a documentary portrait of Andy Warhol, and the British comedy "The Tall Guy" starring Jeff Goldblum.

Among the stars attending the festival were Lynn Redgrave, Kenneth Branagh, Michael Douglas, Cleavon Little, Judith Anderson, Rod Steiger, Juliette Mills.

Seatless trains to reduce crowding

TOKYO, March 13, (AP): A Tokyo train line introduced seatless cars yesterday to reduce overcrowding during rush hours, but some commuters complained of being treated like cargo.

The Yamanote Line, one of the most heavily travelled, introduced new cars with seats that can be lowered or folded back into the wall at the touch of a button.

The seats will stay folded to ease crowding until the end of the morning rush hour at 10 am, creating what one Japanese television announcer called a "freight-train feeling" aboard the cars.

"We're being treated like baggage," complained a middle-aged man riding one of the four new cars, introduced on just two trains as an experiment.

But another woman said the standing-room-only cars "looked neater and less crowded" than regular trains, which sometimes are so packed that riders have only enough space to place one foot on the floor.

"I usually can't sit down anyway, so I think the new arrangement is good," said one young woman.

Train officials say there are very few ways left to ease the crush of the ever-growing crowds that press their way — sometimes with the aid of train employees who push from behind — onto Tokyo's rush-hour trains.

Of the 32 million people who live in and around the capital, about half reportedly use mass transit for commuting.

"It's an attempt to ease the overcrowding. We'll see what the reaction is, and then make a decision on whether to expand their use," said a railroad official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

An estimated 5 million people each day ride the Yamanote Line, which loops around central Tokyo, the railway official said.

During rush hour, many other lines are also at full capacity, meaning that no additional trains can be squeezed into the time schedule.

On the Yamanote Line, 10-car trains run every 2 and 1-2 minutes during rush hour, while trains on slower-moving subway lines arrive every two minutes.

An attempt two years ago to revise safety rules to narrow the gap between trains on the Sobu Line was abandoned after a train slammed into another at a station, killing two people.



Hate campaign

A pig's head and a swastika were found at the door of a Jewish synagogue in Kempton Park near Johannesburg on March 12. White ultra-righters have burned Israeli flags and denounced Jews during public demonstrations. (Reuters wirephoto)

Monroe money goes to UK psycho centre

NEW YORK, March 13, (UPI): A judge has ruled that one-fourth of the earnings of Marilyn Monroe's multimillion-dollar estate belongs to a British psychiatric centre for children, court papers revealed yesterday.

The money, which was tied up in a court battle launched by the widow of Monroe's acting coach, will go to the Anna Freud Centre for the psychoanalytic study and treatment of children in England, according to the ruling by Judge Marie Lambert in Manhattan Surrogate's Court.

The estate of Marilyn Monroe, the blonde sex symbol who died in 1962 from an overdose of drugs and alcohol, grosses more than \$1 million a year in royalties and other proceeds.

In her simple three-page will, Monroe gave 75 per cent of the proceeds to her acting coach, Lee Strasberg. His widow, Anna Strasberg, was subsequently

named administrator of Monroe's estate after her husband's death.

Monroe willed the remaining 25 per cent to her psychiatrist, Dr. Marylyn Kris, to be used "for the furtherance of the work of such psychiatric institution or group as she shall elect."

Kris died in 1980 and in her own will left her share of Monroe estate proceeds to the Hampstead Child-Therapy Clinic, precursor of the Freud Centre.

But the money was tied up in a court battle after Strasberg's widow contended the bequests were limited to Kris's lifetime.

Despite hauls, crackdown Global cocaine yield up sharply

MIAMI, March 13, (UPI): US State Department estimates of world-wide cocaine production nearly doubled last year, a published report said Sunday.

Drug intelligence analysts estimated that maximum world cocaine production was 776 metric tonnes in 1989, 94 per cent larger than the 1988 estimate, the Miami Herald reported.

The increase occurred despite the Colombian government's crackdown, the fall of Gen. Manuel Noriega in Panama and the seizure of 200 tonnes of cocaine world-wide.

Catherine Shaw, a spokeswoman for the State Department's Bureau of International Narcotics matters, said the whopping increase in the figures is partly due to improved methodology in the estimating process and did not mean that production itself rose so dramatically.

The report did not explain how the government made those improvements. But the figures help explain why even the largest seizures have failed to bring the cocaine shortage and the resulting price increases law enforcement officials expected.

Even the world record seizure of 21.4 tonnes of cocaine from a Los Angeles warehouse in September failed to push cocaine prices up. At the time, that amount was thought to represent 5 per cent of the yearly world total.

"The only effect we seemed to notice was there was some individual price-gouging by drug traffickers who said they were going to have to charge more because they'd have difficulty

resupplying themselves," said Ralph Lochridge, spokesman for the US Drug Enforcement Administration in Los Angeles.

Cocaine seizures also have little effect on the price because the cost of processing the drug in South America and smuggling to the United States is only a minute portion of the street price.

A kilogramme that now sells for \$16,000 on the streets of Miami, and can be turned into \$53,000 worth of crack cocaine, costs only about \$2,000 in Colombia. The cost of smuggling it from Colombia to the United States is less than 10 per cent of the final price.

"Ninety per cent of the price of cocaine is domestic wholesale and retail markup," said Mark Kleiman, a former Justice Department drug analyst who is now at Harvard University.

That means traffickers can easily absorb huge losses. The cocaine processors have also become more efficient, improving their techniques to get better yields from the coca leaf, analysts said.

Additionally, the Colombian government has focused its attack on the notorious Medellin Cartel. Some analysts speculate that has merely shifted the market, allowing Colombia's rival Cali Cartel to take over as the world's largest exporter of cocaine.

There has been one encouraging signal however, Shaw said. Since the Colombian crackdown began in August, coca leaf prices in Bolivia and Peru have dropped from \$30 to \$10 per hundred-weight.

Set adrift in Atlantic

LAS PALMAS, Canary, Island, March 13, (Reuters): Six Africans were cast adrift in a rubber raft from a Cypriot merchant ship and reached the Canary Island after rowing for four days, civil guards said yesterday.

The three Ghanaians and three South Africans said they boarded the ship, bound for the Netherlands, in Angola and paid the captain to take them as far as the Canary Island, according to the civil guards.

Two other men set adrift with them died before they reached land and their bodies were thrown overboard.

The guardsmen, from the town of San Nicolas De Tolentino on Gran Canaria, told Reuters they saw the six men swim ashore on Sunday and set off into the island's rocky interior on foot.

When detained they were suffering from malnutrition and bleeding hands.

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INTERNATIONAL

Defiant Thatcher vows to stay in

Fresh violence flares against new tax

LONDON, March 13. (Agencies): Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, ignoring talk of a leadership crisis, vowed to stay in power as fresh violence flared in a simmering nation-wide protest against a new tax. Thatcher, whose leadership is beset by economic troubles and street demonstrations against her so-called 'poll tax,' said she enjoyed her job and intended to keep it.

"I am very happy in the business I do, very happy indeed," she said during a dinner in honour of women business executives last evening. Asked by reporters if she intended to stay on as prime minister, the three-term leader replied firmly: "Yes I do."

As Thatcher declared her intention to stay in power, which has brought up to 20 arrests in fresh violence over the poll tax, which has brought thousands of protesters onto the streets and prompted signs of deep division within the ruling Conservative Party.

Near-riots last week saw Thatcher burned in effigy and some street battles with police. The poll tax, dubbed 'Maggie's tax' by the opposition Labour Party, will replace property taxes with a new levy on adults of voting age from the next month.

For the Conservatives the tax has meant a further slide in opinion polls which had already registered discontent over their policy of raising interest rates to choke off inflation.

Earlier yesterday key members of the party rallied to quash suggestions of a leadership crisis after newspapers reported over the weekend that a quarter of Conservative politicians wanted Thatcher to step down before the next election.

Former Defence Minister Michael Heseltine was touted as the first choice of Conservative Members of Parliament if Thatcher stepped down, according to three Sunday newspaper polls.

Party chairman Kenneth Baker dismissed the reports as "idle and vain speculation."

"The party wants Margaret Thatcher to continue as their leader," he said. "She has won three elections. She is a very successful politician and a world figure. She will lead us to victory in the next election."

The Conservatives trail the Labour Party by up to 19 per cent in opinion polls.

Heseltine said in an interview published in today's Daily Express newspaper that he expected Thatcher to be still at the party helm at the next election.

"I have made it clear that I could see no circumstances in which I would challenge Mrs Thatcher," said Heseltine, who walked out of the cabinet after a row with Thatcher over the future of a British helicopter-maker.

"I have made it clear to all Conservative audiences that I think she will lead us into the next election," he said.

Demonstrators threw stones at police during a protest outside a London borough hall last night. Police said at least 45 people were arrested.

Police said several people — police and demonstrators — were slightly injured in the latest protest.

Three hundred police, including officers on horses, confronted 1,500 protesters in the northeast London borough of Islington as the local council met to set the rate of the tax for that area.

Police said a group of about 20 to 30 people started to snake through the crowd and push demonstrators into police lines.

Hungary's Parliament rooms to let

BUDAPEST, March 13. (Reuters): Hungary's parliament has decided to rent out rooms to help make ends meet.

Administrators of the huge neo-gothic building on the banks of the River Danube will rent out rooms for receptions and other functions "in the country's new entrepreneurial spirit," the state news agency MTI said.

A large, richly-decorated hall below the building's central dome will cost 15,000 forints (\$275) an hour, more than twice the average Hungarian's monthly take-home pay.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Truck robbery

MARSEILLE, March 13. (AP): Thieves using explosives and an assault rifle robbed a security company's armoured car today, killing two guards and wounding a third, police said. The robbers escaped with an undisclosed amount of cash.

The armoured vehicle had just left a depot of the company, Securiposte, when a car drove across its path and forced it to halt, according to police in the Mediterranean port city.

One of the thieves placed an explosive device at the rear of the armoured vehicle. The blast killed one of the guards, and a second died and a third was seriously injured in an exchange of gunfire with the hooded attackers, police said.

Political agreement

SOFIA, March 13. (AP): The ruling communists, the Democratic opposition and other political groups signed an unprecedented political agreement yesterday ensuring equal terms for all parties competing in the elections, the state media reported.

The agreements were adopted at negotiations which resumed yesterday after having been suspended for a month over disagreements on reform.

The agreements also require that until the June 11 elections, all draft legislation must be first agreed upon at the talks before going to the communist-dominated parliament for adoption, the state media reported.

Hungary concerned

BUDAPEST, March 13. (Reuters): Lithuania's declaration of independence could prompt the break-up of the Soviet Union and endanger both European and world stability, Hungarian Foreign Minister Gyula Horn was quoted as saying today.

"The rapid dissolution of the Soviet Union would endanger the stability of not only Europe but the world," the Hungarian MTI news agency quoted Horn as saying yesterday at an election rally in southwest Hungary.

Horn warned that a withdrawal of individual republics from the Soviet Union would hamper Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's reform drive.

Penn immunity lifted

STRASBOURG, March 13. (Reuters): The European parliament lifted the parliamentary immunity of French rightist Jean-Marie Le Pen yesterday, opening the way for possible prosecution over anti-Jewish comments in a right-wing newspaper.

Le Pen, leader of the National Front, can now be prosecuted in France for an anti-Jewish attack published last August in the ultra right-wing daily press. He accused "international Jewry" of playing a role in the creation of "anti-national feeling."

In lifting his immunity at the request of the French government, parliament ignored a recommendation by one of its committees that Le Pen's words were not racist and formed part of his political activities. The vote was 140 in favour, 61 against, with six abstentions.

Picking souvenirs

BUDAPEST, March 13. (Reuters): Western dealers are picking over the corpses of communism, snapping up red stars and other memorabilia as fast as Hungary can throw them out.

"All the symbols and relics of the old system, everything we see as wrong, which has painful memories for us and which we would like to forget, have a very high value in the West," the former government daily Magyar Hirlap noted in a recent commentary.

Parliament resisted bids from the United States and France this year to pay for the privilege of removing — and keeping — a three-metre (10-foot) communist star which had perched on the parliament dome since 1950.



On trial

Lieutenant Orlu Oudran goes on trial, the first policeman to be brought to justice for alleged abuse of power in breaking up a student demonstration in Prague last November. Mass protests against that police brutality helped overthrow Czechoslovakia's communist rulers. (Reuters wirephoto)

Sound barrier

A construction worker peers out from underneath the mammoth whitebone-like support ribs of a sound barrier on the Leeuwarder Weg entrance ramp to the new ring highway around Amsterdam. The sound barrier is curved to help deflect traffic noise away from nearby houses. (Reuters wirephoto)

Mongolia reformists groups winning

ULAN BATOR, Mongolia, March 13. (AP): Communist Party leaders met for a second day today to discuss a dramatic shakeup of the party and government. A government spokesman said reformists were winning over the few remaining conservative opponents.

The politburo of the ruling Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party agreed yesterday to abolish the party's constitutional guarantee on power, hold a special party congress to choose a new leadership and hold early elections this year for a new legislature to rewrite the constitution.

Meanwhile, a third opposition party announced its formation. Like the others, it is made up largely of intellectuals, whose demonstrations since the beginning of the year have pushed Mongolia's sleepy reform process into high gear.

Party general secretary Jambyn Batmönkh and four other members of the politburo also offered their resignations yesterday.

The politburo decisions must be ratified by the Central Committee, whose more than 120 members met for a second day today.

"It is a crucial moment for the party," said Foreign Ministry spokesman Tepshighin Chimeddorj. He said today's special meeting could produce a new politburo and even change its structure and name.

He said it was too early to give details of the form the new leadership would take.

Chimeddorj said Central Committee members had been arguing behind closed doors about the reform proposals and "practically nobody" opposed them.

"In general, we can say in the Central Committee there are radicals and conservatives. They are arguing, but the viewpoints of the conservatives also are changing."

Members of Mongolia's fledgling opposition said the politburo moves were only a first step toward democracy.

Monks must be chaste

VATICAN CITY, March 13. (Reuters): Men and women studying to be priests or nuns should not be allowed to take their final vows if they cannot control their sexual urges, the Vatican said today.

"Those who do not seem to be able to overcome their homosexual tendencies, or who maintain that it is possible to adopt a third way, living in an ambiguous state between celibacy and marriage, must be dismissed from the religious life," it said.

The instruction was contained in a 70-page document entitled "directive on formation in religious institutes," written by the Vatican department in charge of religious life and approved by Pope John Paul II.

Cardinal Jerome Hamer, the department's head, evaded questions at a news conference on how widespread the problem of homosexuality was.

"The problem is very clear. (Members of religious orders) are men and women who take a vow of chastity."

Ethnic Estonians seek deadline

TALLINN, USSR, March 13. (AP): A congress of ethnic Estonians yesterday demanded a deadline for ending Soviet "occupation," activists said.

The Parliament of another Soviet Baltic republic, Lithuania, declared its independence from the Soviet Union on Sunday.

Estonia, like Lithuania, was an independent state before World War II. Tunne Kelam, a leader of the movement to create the ethnic congress, maintained it the tiny Baltic nation of 1.6 million people is still independent, though occupied.

"We want Moscow now to recognise expression of the will of the Estonian people. Our main aim is to establish our legal position of an occupied country," said Trivimi Velliste, a founder of the citizens' movement.

Only 60 per cent of the republic's population is Estonian; the rest is largely Russian. Many of the Russians who immigrated to the area after it was forcibly annexed in 1940 prefer to remain part of the Soviet Union.

Lithuania is still 80 per cent Lithuanian and support for independence is overwhelming.

Estonian activists registered 700,000 ethnic Estonians, who last month elected 465 representatives to this weekend's session of the new congress. Activists say this organisation is the true legislature, not the Supreme Soviet Parliament that will be elected Sunday by all the Soviet citizens of Estonia.

The two-day session that ended yesterday called on Moscow to withdraw all Soviet troops and immediately cease KGB activity in Estonia. The group also called for the abolition of Soviet military bases.

The Bank of France said today it may return to Lithuania the 2.2 tons of gold that the then independent country had deposited for safe keeping in France in 1940.

"The Bank of France has always respected its commitments," a bank spokesman said.

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Gorby may face premier, interior minister in presidential election

MOSCOW, March 13. (AP): Gorbachev may face his new premier and interior minister in a presidential election now that the proposal for creating the new top job has been approved, parliamentarians said today.

But deputies from five Soviet republics with strong independence movements were threatening to scuttle the constitutional amendment for a powerful presidency, saying it was too strong for the loose federation of independent nations they see as the future Soviet Union.

Deputies in this morning's debate at the Congress of Peoples Deputies that they intend to nominate Gorbachev, Premier Nikolai Ryzhkov and Interior Minister Vadim Bakatin for the presidency, the Soviet News Agency Tass reported.

Ryzhkov has been resisting moves toward independence by the three Baltic

republics. Bakatin's ministry controls the police, KGB and riot control troops, which have restored order in several regions that have been torn by ethnic violence.

Another constitutional amendment to strip the Communist Party of its guaranteed monopoly on power and substitute a multi-party system is expected to sail through the special session.

Both changes already have received the support of the Communist Party leadership.

Progressive Moscow Deputy Alexei Yashkov said representatives from Georgia, Moldova, Azerbaijan, Estonia and Latvia are expected to abstain from today's vote to create a presidency that Gorbachev says is needed to keep the union intact.

All five of those republics are possible

candidates for following in the footsteps of Lithuania, which declared itself independent on Sunday.

"The fact that the USSR is a union of sovereign states is hardly taken into account" in the proposed law on presidential powers, said Givi Gumbaridze, Communist Party chief of the southern Republic of Georgia, where the legislature voted Friday to reject the presidency proposal and to demand immediate negotiations with Moscow on independence.

"This draft does not give enough consideration to the sad traditions of our state," he continued, referring to decades of dictatorship.

But Suren Arutyunyan, Communist Party chief of Armenia, said his republic favoured a strong presidency after its experience with the 1988 earthquake and its violent ethnic and territorial dispute

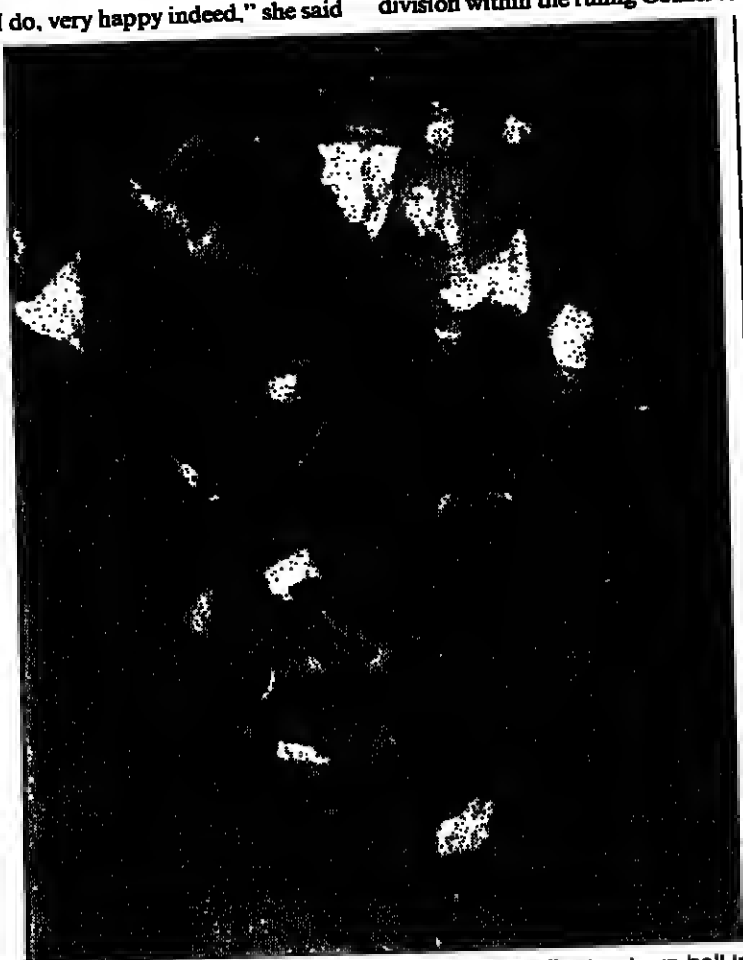
with neighbouring Azerbaijan.

"I would guarantee democratic development," Arutyunyan said. The alternative is "anarchy and chaos."

Lithuanians were so dismayed by the presidency proposal that they rushed to declare independence before it passed.

If the constitutional amendment is approved, "Gorbachev will get dictatorial power with the right to overturn any Republican parliament," said Algimantas Cekutis, a Lithuanian who described himself as a now-former member of the Soviet Congress, attending as an observer.

Gorbachev told the Congress today that Lithuania's declaration is "illegal and invalid." He said the Soviet Union would continue to act as it always has with regard to Lithuania until the matter can be resolved by the Congress' legislative arm, called the Supreme Soviet.



Police grapple with a poll tax protester outside Islington town hall in London, where the Labour-controlled council prepared to fix the government's controversial community charge tax called the poll tax. (Reuters wirephoto)

I revealed nothing to KGB, assures Wolf

EAST BERLIN, March 13. (Agencies): Former East German spy chief Markus Wolf, whose crack espionage service is now being disbanded, says he received desperate phone calls and letters from distraught colleagues.

Wolf, in an interview with the communist newspaper Neues Deutschland released to Reuters today, denied Western reports he was in Moscow to hand over secret service files to the KGB.

He said he went in the Soviet capital late last year to write a book. "Up to my departure for Moscow I received a large number of letters and calls. Former colleagues were distraught and completely at a loss over an intolerable plight they were in through no fault of their own," he said.

"This was an enormous psychological burden for me as well. I could only appeal to others. I could not give help myself."

Former officials of the security police and their families were abused and victimised after the old Stasi regime was overthrown in November. Many are having trouble finding new jobs.

East Germany announced yesterday that the foreign espionage section of the disbanded Stasi security police was calling its agents home and would be completely disbanded by June.

Wolf, who retired in 1986, had muddled it into one of the most successful espionage services of the cold war, infiltrating agents at the highest level of the West German government and military.

But its dissolution was ordered as part of the general wind-down of the Stasi security apparatus.

The breakup of East Germany's 85,000-strong secret police is nearly completed, but small groups of undercover agents may still be roaming the country, according to a report released yesterday.

A West German newspaper, meanwhile, quoted the author of the report as saying that the top Conservative Wolfgang Schnur candidate in Sunday's elections has been named in secret police files as an informer.



The leader of the reform communist party PDS Gregor Gysi (left) talks to members of the New Forum Ingrid Koeppel and Reinhard Schult at the beginning of the last round table meeting in East Berlin. (Reuters wirephoto)



A demonstrator shouts towards Soviet anti-riot police during a rally in Moscow's Majakovskiy Square on Monday night to protest at the possible extension of Gorbachev's presidential powers. (Reuters wirephoto)

LAUGO LITA

Pretoria reverting to repression: activists

JOHANNESBURG, March 13, (Reuters): Anti-apartheid activists have accused the South African government of reverting to past repressive methods in a police clamp-down on the country's worst unrest in four years.

South African security sources said a six-week wave of violence, which has cost 200 lives in townships and black tribal territories, had subsided since the weekend, when they arrested about 150 people for criminal activities of looting and arson.

"Since the arrests of troublemakers started the unrest has taken a tremendous dip," one source said. They said incidents of unrest had been reduced to 20 on Sunday from 105 last Friday.

But anti-apartheid activists said the harsh measures were at odds with the government's reformist goals.

"It seems the government is reverting to their old repressive methods," Patrick Lekota, a senior official of the anti-apartheid United Democratic Front (UDF), said yesterday.

South African Law and Order Minister Adriaan Vlok today defended a bill allowing him to ban guns at political rallies, a measure right-wingers said was directed at whites.

The proposed amendment to existing gun laws raised a howl of protest from the far-right white Conservative Party (CP) when it was tabled in Parliament yesterday.

Vlok said in a radio interview today his proposal for a new gun law would contribute to safe political debate.

"I think at this stage in our history we would like to see peaceful but free political activities taking place."

Nelson Mandela today implored the world community to intensify sanctions against South Africa and suggested he may snub British Premier Margaret Thatcher on a visit in Britain next month.



South African riot police arrest a youth in central Cape Town. About 50 people were arrested following a protest meeting in a church hall in the city centre. (Reuters wirephoto)

NEWSWATCH

\$670,000 art theft: Thieves made off with more than 670,000 worth of art from a Toronto gallery including works by Pablo Picasso.

After knocking a hole in the wall, the intruders removed the works from the downtown Albert White Art Gallery on Sunday night, police said.

The most expensive works lost were a pencil drawing and an original coloured print by Picasso, each valued at \$75,000.

The more than 60 pieces included paintings, etchings, lithographs, woodcuts and silkscreens by Francis Bacon, Sam Francis, David Hockney, Roy Lichtenstein, Joan Miro, Victor Vasarely and others.

Avoiding two alarm systems, thieves entered a hallway beside the gallery and broke through the wall, matching the art from a storage closet while never setting foot on the gallery floor.

Toronto police det. Ray Tattrie said the thieves would undoubtedly have set off alarms had they actually entered the gallery. (AP)

Chileans celebrate freedom: New President Patricio Aylwin, foreign leaders and 80,000 Chileans, many of them in tears, on Monday celebrated Chile's return to democracy in the stadium where the former military regime is said to have tortured and executed its foes.

In a moving ceremony in the national stadium a day after military strongman General Augusto Pinochet handed over the presidency, a woman whose husband disappeared in his "dirty war" on leftist danced alone as the names of hundreds more victims were spelled out on the electronic scoreboard.

Some 80,000 Chileans, some weeping, some clutching each other in the stadium blessed by Pope John Paul II in 1987 as "a place of suffering" stood in silence in honour of the thousands who died in the 1973 coup which installed Pinochet. (Reuters)

Salk Aids vaccine to be tested: US government regulators on Monday cleared the way for human testing of an experimental Aids vaccine developed by Dr. Jonas Salk, the creator of the polio vaccine.

While most Aids researchers predict it will be years before an effective vaccine is available against the deadly Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, the Salk Vaccine is the third to be approved in America for testing in humans.

But a fourth experimental vaccine made by a joint venture of the biotech firms CEL-SCI Corp and Alpha 1 Biomedicals Inc. is being tested on humans in California alone, under a state-approved programme.

Another vaccine, being developed by a joint venture of Chiron Corp and Ciba-Geigy Corp, has been approved for human testing in Switzerland. (Reuters)

Texas vote in governor primary: Three Democrats waged a bare-knuckled struggle for the gubernatorial nomination in Tuesday's primary, while a millionaire oilman making his first run for office was expected to win the Republican nomination outright.

The final pre-election poll showed former Governor Mark White, Attorney General Jim Mattox and Treasurer Ann Richards in a dead heat for the Democratic nomination, with Clayton Williams gaining more than half the Republican vote. (AP)

Woman becomes Haiti's president

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti, March 13, (Agencies): Supreme Court Judge Ertha Pascal-Trouillot today became the first woman president in Haiti's tumultuous 186-year history.

Pascal-Trouillot, the first and only woman on the 12-member Supreme Court, succeeds military rule Lt Gen. Prosper Avril, who went into exile today after a week of violent unrest. She was sworn in by Maj. Gen. Herard Abraham, the army chief of staff, at 1600 GMT at the national palace in a ceremony broadcast live on state television.

"The armed forces are under your orders," Abraham told Pascal-Trouillot. She is to govern until elections are held, possibly as early as this summer.

Abraham had taken temporary control of the government after Avril's resignation Saturday an agreement that he would hand power to a civilian leader within 72 hours.

Looting and isolated cases of violence broke out in several areas of Port-au-Prince Monday

as an exiled opposition leader made an emotional return to Haiti to take part in the new civilian government.

Dr Louis Roy, a leader of the coalition of civic opposition groups known as the Group in Defence of the Constitution, was greeted at the international airport on Monday night by the entire opposition leadership and some 200 supporters.

Roy, 73, was arrested and beaten by troops loyal to former President General Prosper Avril in a crackdown on opposition leaders last January. He was sent into exile in Miami where he had been living until his return on Monday.

"I have returned to help my people in their struggle," said Roy, who has been named one of the 19 members of the provisional council of state that took control of the government.

"The priority today is to consolidate the provisional government so that it can organise elections, so that the people can choose the person that they prefer," he said.



Haitians walk carrying goods looted from the US aid company Care the afternoon of March 12 in Port-au-Prince. Thousands of Haitians looted Care's warehouse carrying away grain, flour and automobiles. (Reuters wirephoto)

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Interested parties may contact: Menon & Krishnan Associates, Chartered Accountants, Siddhartha, Ground Floor, 40, Dr. C.P. Ramaswamy Road, Abhiramapuram, Madras - 600 118, India. Phone: 454914 & 455218. FAX: 0091-44-944444 or Dubai Fax No. 9714-285389

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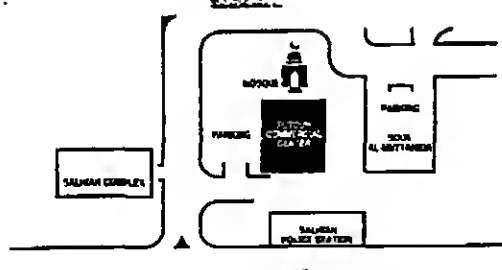
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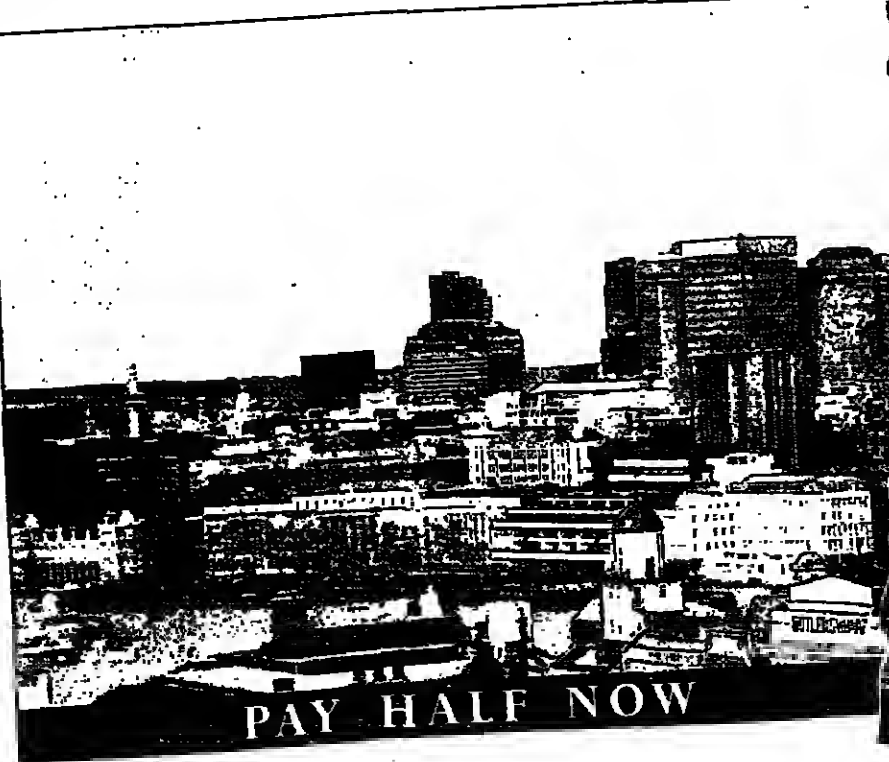
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View from Vogens Mill Tower



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SOVEREIGN
INTERNATIONAL

Poindexter destroyed papers, says North

WASHINGTON, March 13. (AP) — Former White House aide Oliver North conceded yesterday that he witnessed John Poindexter destroy a politically embarrassing presidential document that approved US involvement in a shipment of Hawk missiles to Iran.

Poindexter, President Ronald Reagan's national security adviser in 1986, is accused of concealing the US role in the Hawk shipment on the same day he destroyed the document. It depicts the transaction with Iran as a straight arms-for-hostages deal.

Poindexter is accused of obstructing congressional inquiries into the Iran-Contra affair. The indictment also accuses him of destroying documents and lying to hide White House knowledge of a November 1985 shipment of 18 Hawk anti-aircraft missiles to Iran.

He is the highest ranking official from the Reagan administration to go on trial in the Iran-Contra affair, in which the United States sold arms clandestinely to Iran and used the proceeds to supply Nicaragua's Contra rebels despite a congressional ban on such aid.

It was the worst foreign affairs debacle of Reagan's presidency.

"You were present when John Poindexter in his office... ripped the finding 'into shreds,'" asked Iran-Contra prosecutor Dan Webb.

"Not the way you describe," North said.

"You... saw," Poindexter "tear up the original findings?" asked Iran-Contra prosecutor Dan Webb.

"Tear it in two," replied North.

"He threw it in a waste basket behind his desk or put it in a hurn bag?" asked Webb.

"I think he just put it on his desk," North said.

The government says Poindexter destroyed the document hours after telling Congress he had known nothing of the November 1985 Hawks shipment until more than a month after it occurred.

North tried to avoid testifying about the destruction of the document by suggesting that he learned of it from Poindexter's congressional testimony.

But US district court judge Harold Greene directed North to answer questions about it, noting that the former White House aide had done so last year at his own trial.

North testified that Poindexter discussed a "cover story" that concealed details of US-Iran arms shipment the day before he was questioned about it by lawmakers.

He reluctantly conceded that his former boss saw the false chronology prepared by the White House to answer queries about the Iran-Contra affair.

The chronology prepared in November 1986 falsely said that the US government was not involved in the sale a year earlier of the Hawk missiles.

A CIA document reflecting this "cover story" was discussed at a meeting in Poindexter's White House office on Nov. 20, 1986, that was attended by the late CIA director William Casey and other top officials, North said.

"Admiral Poindexter was aware that was a false story?" prosecutor Dan Webb asked.

"Yes, it was continuing with the cover story" originally devised to conceal US involvement in the shipment, North replied.

"All cover stories are false," North said.

Revealing the shipment would also have led to the disclosure of the presidential document authorising the CIA to sell the Hawks to Iran.

North also testified that he received general instructions from Poindexter to withhold details of the covert operation to assist the Nicaraguan Contras after US military aid was banned.

Ortega firm to quit

Bush renews trade ties, \$300m aid offer

SANTIAGO, March 13. (Agencies) — Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega promised US Vice-President Dan Quayle yesterday he will peacefully and unconditionally relinquish power, according to US officials travelling with Quayle.

Ortega also assured the vice-president that all cabinet ministers, including the defence minister, "will be appointed by and report to Violeta Chamorro," the US-backed candidate who beat Ortega in the

Quayle and Ortega met over a 1-1/2-hour lunch hosted by newly inaugurated Chilean President Patricio Aylwin in the presidential palace. They had arranged in two brief earlier chats to talk further.

It was the first US discussion with the Nicaraguan leftist. The United States has avoided high-level contacts with Ortega, holding that his government should negotiate directly with the US-backed Nicaraguan rebels, whose future has been a sticking point in transition talks rather than with the United States.

Quayle's aides said that while Ortega has said repeatedly the Contras must be disbanded before power is to be transferred, he did not make that a precondition to his promise of peaceful transition.

"He assured me he will turn over power as scheduled April 25," officials quoted Quayle as saying.

The US position also favours disbanding the rebel army, but the United States has insisted the rebels be given security guarantees before they lay down their arms.

The officials said Quayle brought up possible use of United Nations peacekeeping troops to help prevent fighting between the Contra rebels and Sandinista loyalists.

Ortega indicated that would be fine "if they are willing to take the risk," the aides said. They quoted Quayle as replying, "we better take a look for peace."

The luncheon conversation took place after Ortega asked Costa Rican President Oscar Arias, who was seated next to Quayle to trade places with him. The United States had shunned Ortega for a decade.

Ortega later characterised the discussion as "frank, friendly and constructive."

Several hours of state have used the inauguration in Chile to discuss how to bring about a peaceful transition in Nicaragua.

Arias joined Ortega in announcing that a meeting of Central American presidents will be held at the end of the month to discuss ways to bring about a smooth and peaceful transition in Managua.

Arias said that Quayle concurred when Arias suggested the Contras should receive no US money to repatriate until they lay down their arms.

But Quayle's chief of staff, Bill Kristol, later said Quayle agreed only that there should be incentives for the Contras to disband — not that they should disarm or lose repatriation money. Kristol also said Quayle insisted there be security guarantees for the Contras.

The incentives, Kristol said, will be in the Nicaraguan aid package.

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Burmese move to control dissent

Thousands relocated

BANGKOK, March 13. (AP) — Burmese military authorities have moved tens of thousands of people from the cities to outlying areas in an effort to control political dissent, two Western diplomats said today.

"They are getting rid of potential flash points," one diplomat said. "Some areas were more active than others during the demonstrations and the army wants to have people where it can easily control them."

One diplomat, citing reports from the new settlements before the government recently stopped allowing visits, said "certainly in many cases the move was involuntary."

"From the estimates that we have built up we would say that the total figure would be up to half a million people countrywide," the other diplomat said.

The relocations began early last year, said the diplomats, who were reached in Rangoon by telephone from Bangkok and spoke on condition of anonymity.

They said the action apparently was aimed partly at breaking up blocs of anti-government sentiment in the cities, where millions demonstrated against authoritarianism of military chief Gen. Saw Maung, who seized power in a coup in September 1988. His troops suppressed the demonstrations, killing hundreds of people.

The movements also may be an attempt to influence voting patterns in the scheduled May 27 election, to be the first multiparty polling in three decades, the diplomats said. Authorities already have barred Aung San Suu Kyi and other opposition leaders from running in the election.

The diplomats said many of the new settlements had no running water or electricity, and some were malaria-infested. Armed soldiers often supervised the relocations, herding people into trucks, they said.

They said most of the people were moved from the capital, Rangoon, but others were moved from the northern cities of Mandalay and Taunggyi to outlying areas.

"In Rangoon it (the relocation) is very extensive," one diplomat said. "People are ordered by the military to dismantle their houses at their own cost."

Shamir sacks Peres

(Continued from Page 1)

In Cairo, PLO representative Saeed Kamal said the dismissal of Peres was an example of "Shamir's successful policy to try and gain time and enter into futile procedures, aimed solely at wasting time."

"This has been Shamir's policy all along since he became prime minister," he said.

Prominent Palestinian newspaper editor Hanna Seniora, who has been mentioned as possible member of a Palestinian delegation, said Arabs had felt that Shamir wanted to stall the peace process.

"The deception that was prevailing for the whole period of the peace process is now being clarified," he said.

Nine no-confidence votes were scheduled for Thursday in the Parliament. Labour, which has 35 seats, was believed to have enough votes for a majority. Labour leaders said.

Religious, left-wing and right-wing parties met throughout the day to decide which major party to support in the no-confidence motions. By evening it appeared Labour had 60 votes and Likud 55 in the 120-member Parliament.

If the no-confidence motion passes, President Chaim Herzog must select a party that he believes has the best chance of forming a narrow government. Only a majority of Israeli Parliament, the Knesset, can decide to call new elections.

Palestinian leader Salah Khalaf said he expected Israel to move to the right after the breakup of its coalition government.

"Israel will move towards the hardest solution, the hardest choice and the choice of war," Khalaf, a leading member of PLO chairman Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement widely known as Abu Iyad, said in an interview with Swiss radio.

"It will not be content to reject the peace process but will go back to thinking of... annexing the West Bank and Gaza."

He said Shamir could hang on to power by bringing more extremists into his government, even at the risk of alienating the United States.

"Shamir will try to put into practice the legend of the alternative homeland (for Palestinians) in Jordan. This is the grave danger which the sacking of Peres hints at," he added.

Yasser Abed Rabbo, a member of the Palestine Liberation Organisation Executive Committee, said in a separate interview the Israeli cabinet crisis could strengthen either the right wing or moderates who favour dialogue with the PLO.

"If there are intentions and serious preparations by all the parties opposed to Shamir's policies... it could help abort (Shamir's) aggressive and expansionist policies," he said.

The collapse of the Israeli government revealed Shamir's Likud bloc was the real barrier to Middle East peace talks, a senior PLO official said today.

But the PLO would press on with the search for peace while watching developments in Israel, Abu Jaafar, general director of the Palestine Liberation Organisation's political department, told a news conference in Copenhagen.

Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip welcomed the collapse of Israel's coalition and said they hoped a new government would be more effective in moving towards peace.

"For the first time I saw clarity in Israeli politics. The deception that was prevailing for a whole period of the peace process now is being clarified," said Hanna Seniora, editor of the nationalist Al Fajr newspaper.

"We are looking forward for a new government capable of making decisions," Faisal Al Hussein, the leading Palestinian nationalist in the occupied territories, told Reuters.

Protest at handling of KGB defector

WASHINGTON, March 13. (AP) — The Soviet Union has lodged a "strong protest" with the United States over the handling of Victor L. Sheymov, a KGB defector who surfaced after nearly a decade in the United States.

Sergey B. Chetverikov, minister-counselor at the Soviet embassy, accused US intelligence agencies yesterday of "subversive action" for smuggling Sheymov, his wife and 5-year-old daughter out of the Soviet Union in 1980.

The family's exit from the Soviet Union was a "gross violation of rules of international law, which is, in fact, an act of state terrorism," Chetverikov told reporters at a news conference.

Chetverikov said he met with Deputy Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger yesterday to complain about the Sheymov affair. Chetverikov said he was particularly concerned about allegations Sheymov made at a time of a thaw in relations between the two superpowers.

Chetverikov confirmed that Sheymov was employed by the KGB, but the embassy official said he worked as a "coding equipment maintenance technician." As such, Sheymov had "no access to serious secret information, including documents," the embassy official said.

Sheymov, 43, appeared at a press conference March 2, making a series of allegations.

Among other things, he said that in the late 1970s the Soviet Union had two sources inside the State Department who were able to deliver secret information on US policy and negotiating positions. The department refused any comment on that case at the time.

Sheymov also said he was present in the Warsaw station of the KGB in 1979 when a cable arrived from Moscow ordering what he believed to be the initial stages of a plot to assassinate Pope John Paul II.

The Soviet embassy denied Sheymov's claim about the Pope. "Totally untrue and malicious from beginning to end in his assertion about the committee for State Security's involvement in the affair relating to the attempt on Pope John Paul II's life," Chetverikov said.

He said the CIA leadership knew "very well that the KGB had not and could not have anything to do with this heinous crime." Allegations have long circulated about possible Soviet involvement in a plot to kill the Pope was wounded by a gunman's bullet in 1981. No connection with Moscow has ever been established.

Chetverikov also said "hints about the KGB's involvement in organising the attempt on the late president Zia ul Haq of Pakistan can also be described as wild fiction." Zia was killed when a plane blew up in Pakistan in 1988.

Chetverikov claimed that the CIA had put statements in Sheymov's mouth as a "hostile action." Forces inside the United States, the Soviet official said, were bent on disrupting growing ties between Moscow and Washington. Sheymov has said he is looking for a publisher for his book.

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Surgeons at the Rothschild Hospital transplanted a man's severed foot to his wrist in a six hour operation last week in order that the foot could be sewn back onto the badly damaged leg later. (Reuters wirephoto)

Miracle surgery in France

Foot saved by grafting

PARIS, March 13. (AP) — A French plastic surgeon yesterday claimed initial success for a history-making operation where a severed foot was grafted onto the forearm of a man run over by a subway train.

A team of 10 doctors headed by Maurice Mimoun of the Hospital Rothschild toiled more than six hours last Thursday to save a 40-year-old accident victim from losing his leg and foot.

The patient, who was not identified, fell from a subway platform onto the track just as the train was pulling into the station. The wheels mangled his lower right leg and cleanly cut off the foot.

Paramedics arrived on the scene within minutes and stabilised the victim, who was bleeding heavily and going into shock. Meanwhile, other rescue workers found the foot on the track and whisked it to the hospital along with the man.

"There I was confronted with a foot in perfect condition and a stump that needed several weeks to heal before the foot could be sewn back on," Dr Maurice Mimoun told the Associated Press.

"I had to think of a way to preserve the foot for as long as possible," he said. "But I had never thought of doing this before."

If the legs heal properly — it could take as little as three weeks or as long as three months — Mimoun, 34, said he will reattach the foot to the stump.

"The patient should be able to walk normally. Without the temporary graft, amputation would have been necessary," he said.

The leg may be a little bit shorter, he said, but said there are many ways to compensate and prevent a significant limp.

Mimoun said the patient was under sedation and did not know he had undergone the unusual surgery. He said the victim's family authorised the operation.

The results of the surgery were shown on French television late Sunday — the swollen, blood-stained foot resting over the hand, which was not injured in the accident.

Mimoun said the use of "relay grafts" is common practice among plastic surgeons who often try to save healthy muscle or skin tissue by grafting it onto the forearm.

"The forearm is used because it has two major blood vessels, one of which can be used to vascularise whatever needs to be saved," Mimoun said. He said the arm would supply the grafted foot with enough blood to keep it alive.



One killed as roof collapses

Firemen carry out body of victim of a roof collapse at a last food restaurant in New York. One person was killed and 14 were injured. (Reuters wirephoto)

Independence 'illegal' Talk to Pakistan

(Continued from Page 1)

Gorbachev was also pressed by deputies from Estonia, where a founding nationalist Congress met on Sunday to usurp the republic's official Parliament and demand talks with Moscow on independence.

Members of the Communist Party-dominated Congress of People's deputies hurried into applause when Gorbachev opened the session today by declaring: "We conduct talks with foreign states."

Gorbachev reacted negatively to the documents he said had just received from Vilnius on the Lithuanian declaration of independence.

"From what I have read, it is illegal and invalid," he said.

Gorbachev appeared to falter, however, when a lawmaker stood up, shouted out that Australia had already recognised Lithuania as a free country and asked the Soviet leader how Moscow would respond to an "avalanche" of official support for foreign governments.

"I think that our position, which will be denoted in the near future, will be made known in the Soviet Union and throughout the world," Gorbachev said. "This will have significance for all (foreign) states."

Later in the day, Gorbachev told the legislators that a special parliamentary commission headed by Premier Nikolai Ryzhkov had been set up to deal with the Baltic challenge and suggested that the panel "in a day or two start discussing the whole complex of questions."

With a partial boycott in effect, it was not immediately known how many of the Baltic legislators participated in the vote that established the presidential system.

Greece leaders stress on leading role in Balkans

ATHENS, March 13. (Reuters) — Greece should play a leading role for peace and stability in the Balkan peninsula following recent upheavals in Eastern Europe, the country's three governing party leaders said.

Conservative party leader Constantine Mitsotakis, Socialist leader Andreas Papandreu and Communist chief Harilaos Florakis told a panel discussion last night that closer ties among Balkan states were now more possible than in the past.

Mitsotakis said Greece's five Balkan neighbours — Turkey, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, Romania and Albania — "see us as a bridge for closer ties with the European Economic Community and we promise to do everything possible in that direction."

Greece is the only Balkan country which is a member of the 12-nation European Economic Community (EEC).

"It is now easier to develop closer ties with these countries than it was in the past when our political and economic systems were totally different," Mitsotakis said in the discussion at the Athens University.

Papandreu said the Balkan states will become an important investment target for the EEC and that "Greece must be the leaders of the community's presence in the Balkan peninsula."

But he said the community's interest in Eastern Europe should not deprive southern EEC countries of community funds.

Florakis said Greece should take the initiative for the signing of a non-aggression pact among the Balkan countries.

The communist leader said Balkan ties would be better served if Greece and Turkey pulled out from Nato and Bulgaria and Romania from the Warsaw Pact.

The three leaders, whose parties form a caretaker government before national elections on April 8, said Greece should find common ground with its bitter foe Turkey over mineral rights in the Aegean Sea and the division of Cyprus.

They said Athens must take steps to develop the western Thracian region in northern Greece where some 120,000 Muslims, remnants of the Ottoman Empire, live.

Mitsotakis said Athens must support the rights of some 400,000 ethnic Greeks in Albania and urged Tirana to follow the changes in Eastern Europe.

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Iran threat to Gulf receding, says Carlucci

KUWAIT, March 13, (AP): Former US Defense Secretary Frank Carlucci was quoted today as saying he believes the Iranian threat to the Arab states of the Gulf is receding.

"I think the Iranian danger is on the retreat, but in the long run these countries should shore up their defences," said Carlucci in an interview published in a Kuwaiti daily.

Carlucci was Pentagon chief at the height of the Iraq-Iran war when the United States rushed its warships to the Gulf region in a show of strength for its Arab friends and to protect international navigation in the vital Gulf oil export

sealanes.

At the time, the Soviet Union also made a naval presence felt in the Gulf waters. Carlucci in the interview virtually ruled out any Soviet military drive toward the Gulf in the wake of the withdrawal of Soviet forces from Eastern Europe.

"I think a Soviet invasion of the Gulf is a remote possibility even if the Soviets have withdrawn their forces from East Europe. They now have their own problems in Azerbaijan and Armenia," he said.

The United States still remains committed to meet defence requirements of its friends in the Gulf Co-operation Council, the six conservative Arab states of the

region which sits on two-thirds of the world oil reserves. The GCC groups Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates.

Aside from attacks on commercial shipping by Iran in its eight-year war with Arab Iraq, the Persian state was also held responsible for a spate of acts of sabotage within these countries. A UN-arranged ceasefire in August 1988 has generally held but there is no formal peace treaty as yet.

Carlucci expressed the belief that the GCC countries considered "internal sabotage" as the main threat now.

"They do their utmost to bolster their internal security systems," he said, adding

"we will co-operate with them in this respect."

The GCC countries depend on the United States in major part for their arms purchases, but some countries, notably Saudi Arabia, have been thwarted in attempts to secure sophisticated US weaponry because of resistance in Congress.

Carlucci attributed the difficulties to the strength of the pro-Israel lobby in the United States and said: "The country which I am sorry we could not help is Jordan. Undoubtedly Jordan is in need of our help but Congress acted in an extremely foolish manner."

No need for aid: Sudan tells US

KHARTOUM, March 13, (Reuters): "America, take your money and go," the Sudanese newspaper Al Fajr Al Watani declared yesterday after the cut-off of economic and military aid from the United States.

Khartoum's three daily newspapers, tightly controlled by the military junta that seized power from an elected government last June, all attacked the decision announced on Thursday.

Washington said new assistance ended on February 28 under a law prohibiting aid to coup governments which have no restored democratic rule in eight months. The ban applies to \$60 million allocated to Sudan this year but allows humanitarian assistance to continue.

Al Fajr Al Watani's editorial said Washington was standing in the way of the Sudanese people's quest to implement sharia or Islamic law. Sharia is a key issue in a long-running civil war in non-Muslim southern Sudan.

Britain, West Germany, France and the Netherlands have also reduced aid to Sudan recently because of its failure to end the civil war, lack of economic reforms prescribed by the International Monetary Fund and alleged human rights violations.

Another Khartoum daily, Al Sudan Al Hadeeth, linked the US but with a pact signed with Libya last week which provided for integration in political, economic and security fields between the two neighbours and a merger in four years.

Junta leader Omar Hassan Al Bashir told an investment conference in Khartoum yesterday the treaty with Libya was a step towards Arab unity.

Although Khartoum dailies spoke with one voice on the US aid issue yesterday, the press also carried an usual note of dissent—the first article published since the June coup to criticise major junta policies.

Lawyer Abdul-Wahab Al Bosh, writing in a new, state-owned weekly Al Mutaqaddim, said the armed forces had no right to draft a new constitution.

He said the junta should remain in power only as a transitional administration to end civil war, reform the economy and supervise the election of a new parliament.

"Let this new transitional stage be one of military administration and not one of patronage over the Sudanese people," Bosh wrote.

69 killed in west Sudan tribal clash

KHARTOUM, March 13, (AP): Arabs clashed with non-Arabs in western Sudan last week and 69 people were killed and 14 villages burned down, the official Sudan News Agency reported yesterday.

The fighting between the Fur, a Muslim non-Arab farming tribe, and marauding Arab nomads took place in the Shannar region of Wadi Salih in northern Darfur, the agency said.

The agency gave no reason for the fighting but said the governor of the Darfur region, Maj. Gen. Abdul-Qasim Ibrahim, toured the area to try to reconcile the two sides. Thousands from both sides had been killed in previous clashes.

Reporting from Al Fasher, the capital of Darfur region, the agency said the governor has ordered the collection of weapons from the conflicting parties.

It said he also has appealed to both sides to abide by a reconciliation agreement reached in July that stipulated that each tribe pay the other compensations and diyas, or blood money, for losses in previous clashes.

The first installment of these compensations were paid last month, according to the agency, which gave no further details.

Western relief workers say 2,000 to 3,000 people were killed in the Darfur clashes last year.

Every winter for hundreds of years, cattle-herding Baggara and other smaller nomadic tribes migrated on Fur farms as they trekked toward water and grazing lands to the south.

They fought brief battles, with minimal human losses. Differences were resolved in traditional peace councils after the fighting with blood money paid for victims and compensation for destroyed farms.

Rule E. Beirut too, Sfeir tells Hirawi

Skirmishing intensifies

BEIRUT, March 13, (Agencies): Lebanon's Maronite patriarch has urged the country's Syrian-backed president to take control of the Christian heartland where rival armies were gearing up on Tuesday for another onslaught after six weeks of war.

Patriarch Nasrallah Butros Sfeir, who has threatened to excommunicate army commander General Michel Aoun and Lebanese Forces militia chief Samir Geagea if they went on fighting, said President Elias Hrawi should extend his rule over all Lebanon.

"The legitimacy (the west Beirut-based Hrawi government) should expand its authority on all the country. It should not wait the invitation of anybody," Sfeir told Beirut's As-Safir newspaper.

The developments coincided with intensified skirmishing between Aoun's troops and Geagea's Lebanese Forces militiamen in east Beirut and the Christian hinterland north of the capital.

Police said one person was killed and four people were wounded in the nightlong skirmishing with howitzers, mortars, machine-guns and rocket-propelled grenades.

By police count, the toll in the inconclusive showdown for mastery of the 310-square-mile (800-sq km) Christian enclave stands at 756 killed and 2,101 wounded since Jan 30.

The two forces fought each other to a standstill before accepting a ceasefire called March 3 by a mediation committee comprising three independent Christian figures.

The committee has not reported any progress in efforts to work out a settlement to the Geagea-Aoun conflict and the daily intermittent exchanges of sniper fire developed late Monday to a duel with howitzers.

The thuds of exploding shells echoed across the city all night, shaking the population out of bed and sending civilians seeking refuge in underground shelters.

Hirawi's internationally recognised government controls 70 per cent of Lebanon, but does not have any influence over the Christian enclave which has been the scene of a savage power struggle between Aoun and Geagea.

Aoun, Geagea and Hirawi are Maronites, the Catholic community that has dominated political life in Lebanon since independence from France in 1943.

Sfeir, the highest Christian authority in Lebanon, was previously warned by Aoun to stay out of politics after the general's supporters manhandled the patriarch last November when he supported the peace pact which led to Hirawi's election.

Hirawi, who has some 15,000 Muslim troops at his disposal, has said he would only intervene to halt the inter-Christian bloodshed if he was asked officially by Christian political and religious leaders.

The patriarch did not suggest how Hirawi should take control of Christian east Beirut but said it should be done peacefully.

Army and LF forces exchanged sniper fire on Tuesday after overnight tank and artillery bat-

ties across the Keserwan strategic mountain ridge, north-east of Beirut.

The fighting was the most serious breach of a ceasefire agreement announced 12 days ago after Sfeir threatened the Christian leaders with the ultimate church sanction.

Geagea was quoted by As-Safir as saying more fighting between his 10,000-strong militia and Aoun's 15,000 troops was possible.

The LF leader said Aoun, who has defied Hirawi's authority and held out at the presidential palace in the Christian suburb of Baabda, "might resort to war one last time before surrendering" to Hirawi.

Aoun yesterday warned of fresh bloodshed, saying mediators had failed to resolve the struggle for control of east Beirut in which 810 people were killed and 2,650 wounded.

The general, in an interview with Reuters, accused the LF of blocking peace. "Those who are refusing dialogue let them use force, and those who are refusing agreements let them refuse. Each can preserve the right to take the initiative and put an end to things," he said.

"But things have to come to an end... all options are open," Aoun warned.

Aoun was quoted last week as saying the war with the LF was definitely over, describing the inter-Christian fighting as mutually destructive.

Geagea's and Aoun's latest remarks matched war preparations in the ground where both forces were fortifying their positions with men and ammunition.

Make off with gold to protest tyranny

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, March 13, (AP): The robbery of a gold merchant by armed Palestinians in the West Bank town of Nablus yesterday has raised fears that a new gang of self-styled "enforcers" has emerged.

Arab reports said two Palestinian men armed with Israeli-made Uzi automatic weapons entered a shop near the Nablus central market and robbed the merchant of five kilograms (11 pounds) of gold.

A Palestinian gang known as the Black Panthers last year financed some of its activities by stealing eight kilograms (17.6 pounds) of gold from a Nablus merchant.

The Black Panthers, who killed several Palestinians suspected of collaborating with Israel, went underground last December after several gang leaders were killed in a raid by Israeli troops. They are believed affiliated with Yasser Arafat's Fatah faction in the PLO.

Another Nablus gang, known as the Red Eagles and aligned with the Marxist Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, was smashed by the army last November.

The robbers yesterday were believed to be renegade Fatah members, Arab reports said. They said both men were wanted by Israeli police for activities related to the 27-month Palestinian uprising against Israeli rule.

A resident of Nablus, who asked not to be identified, described the robbers as "out of control" and said he feared "another Black Panthers."

After the theft, masked Palestinians affiliated with Fatah marched through the Nablus market and announced over loudspeakers that they would pursue the robbers and try to recover the gold.

Fatah leaders last fall appealed to the Black Panthers and the Red Eagles to cease their activities, mainly aimed at suspected collaborators, but the gangs did not heed them.

Also in Nablus yesterday, three masked Palestinians armed with swords and clubs forced their way into a cosmetics shop owned by Palestinian businessman Saeed Kanaan and smashed some of his goods.

Four masked Palestinians returned last night to Kanaan's shop, broke its window and set the store ablaze, Nablus residents said. They said the shop suffered some damage before firemen arrived to deal with the arson.

Kanaan declined comment on the incident.

Kanaan, a moderate Palestinian leader with ties to Fatah, was threatened by Palestinian radicals after reports were published in a Hebrew-language daily suggesting that he would be named to a delegation opening preliminary peace talks with Israel.

Kanaan later took out advertisements in Arab newspapers denying the newspaper report.

Also yesterday, a Palestinian youth, Jamal Muhammad Khafira, 17, died of bullet wounds sustained during a stone-throwing clash with Israeli soldiers Sunday night in the Akhbat Jabbah refugee camp in Jericho, hospital officials said.

The army confirmed the death and said soldiers opened fire when attacked by a group of masked youths.

His death raised to 663 the number of Palestinians killed by Israelis during the uprising. An additional 196 Palestinians have been killed by fellow Arabs, most on suspicion of collaborating with Israel, and 43 Israelis have died in the violence.



The Arab League building in Cairo looks like brand new after repainting work which finished this week. The 22-member Arab League headquarters, moved

to Tunis, a decade ago in protest at Egypt's peace treaty with Israel, seems set to return to Cairo. (Reuters wirephoto)

Washington renews chem charge as Tripoli denies

US, Libya clash at Geneva

GENEVA, March 13, (Reuters): Libya denied at world disarmament talks today that it was making chemical weapons, but the United States renewed accusations of poison gas production by the Tripoli government.

The two nations clashed at a 40-state conference negotiating a ban on the production and stockpiling of chemical weapons, whose use is prohibited by a previous accord.

Libyan diplomat Ibrahim Omar told the UN conference on disarmament that Tripoli had clarified on many occasions that its Rabta plant produced medicines.

He described US allegations that the plant made poison gas as

baseless and said Washington was using them as a pretext to commit aggression against Libya.

Chief US delegate Stephen Ledgar said he regretted that Libya had raised Washington's accusations, "but since the representative of Libya has raised them here this morning I can only state that my authorities stand by those comments."

White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said last week the US did not rule out military action to knock out the Rabta plant, 80 km (50 miles) south of Tripoli.

"The American announcement implies a clear threat to use force against Libya, a matter

which is a flagrant violation of the UN charter and international law," Omar, the Libyan charge d'affaires in Geneva, said.

He said the United States, as a world power, had a duty to preserve international peace and security.

Iran's spiritual leader today accused the United States and Western media of distorting facts about Iran to try to wreck its efforts to export the Islamic revolution by example.

"What the colonialist machinery of America and its surrogates and the enemies of Islam and the revolution are after is to distort the Iranian nation's resistance in the eyes of the world," Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said.

MIDEAST BRIEFS

Kurd rebels killed: Troops killed four Kurdish separatists in a clash in a southeast Turkey on Monday, security officials said.

They said soldiers were chasing seven other members of the Marxist Kurdish Workers Party (PKK), who fled up a mountain after the clash near the town of Caglayan.

The officials said they believed the rebel group was planning to attack a village before it ran into the army patrol. (Reuters)

Women march for missing men: Breaking news ground in Marxist South Yemen, about 70 women paraded through the streets of Aden on Monday demanding freedom for political prisoners the government denies it holds.

They said they had proof their menfolk, missing since bloody battles in a 1986 coup, were still alive in the country's jails.

Women have equal rights under the Marxist constitution but the demonstration was the first women's march in years. South Yemen has been thawing out its political life in preparation for a merger with pro-Western North Yemen.

Witnesses said mothers, sisters and wives toured the main streets before going to the presidential palace to meet President Haider Abu Bakr Al Attas. (Reuters)

Iran to free 20 Egyptians: Iran is to release 20 Egyptians taken prisoner during its eight-year war with Iraq, an Iranian diplomat said on Tuesday.

The 20 prisoners will be flown to Geneva on Wednesday with Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati, who is due to speak at UN disarmament talks later this week, the diplomat told Reuters.

Cairo ministry new building catches fire

CAIRO, March 13, (AP): Fire today damaged the only two occupied floors of the government's just-completed Foreign Ministry building. Ministry sources said five people were hospitalized for treatment of smoke inhalation.

Capt. Ashraf Elkry of the Cairo fire brigade said 10 trucks answered the call and firefighters extinguished the blaze "in a matter of minutes."

It was the third fire in a major Cairo building in 12 days. Early March 1, fire roared through the Helwan Sheraton Hotel northeast of the city center, killing 17 people, injuring about 70 and devastating the structure. A week later, a fire in a kitchen of Shepherd Hotel downtown caused little damage and one minor injury.

The 15-floor Foreign Ministry remains empty except for the sixth and seventh floors, where the fire was contained. A ministry source said it was thought to have been caused by an electric short circuit. The ministry's archives department was being set up in the stricken floors.

Overlooking the Nile River near the state-owned Egyptian television building, the ministry's columned white tower flares at the top like a lotus flower.

Turkey wedding protest

DIYARBAKIR, Turkey, March 13, (Reuters): A bridegroom and his father were among four villagers arrested after a Muslim wedding at which they burnt the Turkish flag and called for Islamic rule in Turkey, court officials said today.

The officials said wedding guests hoisted a black banner, symbolising Islamic fundamentalism, and shouted "Khomeini is our leader," a reference to Iran's late spiritual leader Ayatollah Khomeini.

About 200 villagers at Zilek, near the main regional city of Diyarbakir were said to have been involved in the February 25 demonstrations.

Para-military gendarmes, searching the homes of those arrested, found pro-Iranian literature and tape cassettes, the officials said.

Mainly-Muslim but secular Turkey has seen a revival in fundamentalist Islam in the last decade, inspired mainly by the 1979 Islamic revolution in neighbouring Iran.

The four, including a teacher and an agricultural expert, will be tried by the state security court in Diyarbakir, under penal code 163, which carries up to 15 years' jail for anti-secular activities, the officials said.

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Rebels profit from failed coup

Najib tries to consolidate

KABUL, March 13, (Reuters): Afghan President Najibullah has moved to consolidate his grip on the Army by promoting five loyal generals but he ignored the air force whose jets bombed his palace during last week's attempted coup.

Those promoted from lieutenant-general to full general included new Defence Minister Mohammad Aslam Watanajar, making him the undisputed military leader, diplomatic sources said on Monday.

Najibullah's move, six days after he crushed a coup attempt by then defence minister Colonel-General Shahinawaz Tanai, was aimed at securing at least short-term loyalty from the new military hierarchy, the sources said.

It would also pave the way for further army reorganisation, they said.

Also promoted were Vice-President Mohammad Rafie, Army General Staff commander Mohammad Asif Delawar, First Deputy Defence Minister and Kabul garrison commander Mohammad Nabi Azimi and State Security Minister Mohammad Farooq Yaqubi.

No promotions were given to the air force which played a lead role in the attempted putsch. Rebellious air force pilots bombed Najibullah in his palace and came close to killing him last Tuesday.

Tanai, now hiding somewhere in Afghanistan or Pakistan, was quoted on Sunday by a rebel news service as pledging to fight on against Najibullah.

Pakistan denies it had any



Afghan mujahideen raise their hands after firing a gun towards government troops in Jalalabad. (Reuters wirephoto)

involvement in the plot or that Tanai fled to Pakistan, but diplomatic sources said they had no doubt that he spent at least part of the last week in the country.

Five Pakistani left-wing political groups accused Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto on Monday of continuing what they called the militarist policy of late military president Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq over Afghanistan.

Pakistan officially denies aid-

ing the mujahideen guerrillas fighting to topple Najibullah but it is widely acknowledged to be the main conduit for US weapons supplies to the rebels.

US-backed Afghan guerrillas, profiting from the failed coup against the pro-Soviet Afghan regime, have reoccupied strategic positions near Kabul and forced the surrender of a government convoy, Western diplomatic sources said Tuesday.

American Jewish community gears up to fight 'anti-Israeli' shift

WASHINGTON, March 13, (Reuters): The American Jewish community, alarmed at what it perceives as a new anti-Israeli tone in US Middle East policy, is mobilising its considerable resources to fight the shift on the part of the Bush administration.

"The community is extremely agitated as a result of a perception of a change for the worse," said Seymour Reich, chairman of the conference of presidents of major American Jewish organisations.

On behalf of the organisation representing 48 major US Jewish groups, Reich issued a strongly worded statement on

Monday accusing the administration of undermining Israeli government confidence and blocking Mideast peace efforts with a series of confusing statements on the future of occupied Jerusalem.

"Recent administration statements on Jerusalem and other aspects of US Middle East policy have undermined the confidence necessary for Israel to take those risks for peace that the administration asks," the statement said.

The source of Jewish disquiet lay in a statement by President Bush last week opposing Jewish settlements in the

occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem. Previously, successive US administrations had virtually ignored the construction of Jewish suburbs in East Jerusalem, which now house about 110,000 people.

Bush's statement, later clarified by the President in a phone call with Reich, threw Israel into turmoil, paralysing US-sponsored peace efforts and straining the ruling coalition, which now appears on the verge of collapse.

Although Bush clarified his comment to stress that he did not oppose Jews living in occupied Jerusalem, the State Department

later issued a statement that Jewish groups called ambiguous.

In meetings with Jewish leaders and Israeli diplomats, several senior officials repeated Bush's original comment and also denied it was made inadvertently.

"The administration has, in the past 10 days, made a series of mistakes and missteps that, taken together, suggest that something new and different and very unwelcome is going on.... Suddenly there is rejoicing at PLO headquarters in Tunis and dismay in Israel," said Thomas Dine, executive director of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (Aipac).

KUWAIT ... GULF

No change in airfares this season: Mishari

United Arab policies called for

KUWAIT, March 13, (Kuna): Board Chairman and Managing Director of Kuwait Airways Corporation (KAC) Ahmad Al Mishari yesterday called for United Arab policies to confront powerful blocs in the air transport industry around the world.

At a press conference held before the onset of deliberations of KAC's annual conference, Mishari said Eastern and Western European markets are vying to become a powerful negotiating force in the air transport industry.

"We are concerned with the present and future of KAC's plans in light of the changes in the industry world-wide as (KAC) entered the 1990s with firm economy and high flexibility," Mishari said.

This was achieved through the rearranging of KAC's priorities during the '80s to cope with difficult conditions prevailing in the region at the time, the Kuwaiti official underlined.

He said such achievements were mirrored through KAC's increasing profit for the eighth consecutive year.

On future plans of the corporation, Mishari noted that KAC was seeking to develop the personnel body to enhance collective participation in developing marketing and service techniques in light of the developments in the industry.

In response to a question he said the European alliances in the industry were a result of political resolutions adopted to meet the economic interests of the European markets, hoping that Arab blocs of the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC), Arab Co-operation Council (ACC) and the Arab Maghreb Union would unite Arab markets.

On the competition among airline companies, Mishari said it should not have a negative effect on the passengers' services especially that KAC is considered as Kuwait's messenger to the world.

Concerning the rescheduling of wages of KAC staff, he said this has been the core of negotiation with the civil service diwan which showed great understanding of KAC's suggestions in this respect.

According to KAC's policy, Mishari said Kuwaitization of the corporation started with the maintenance department for its vital role and other departments will have its turn.

He denied any intention to raise or lower ticket prices citing that present fares "are not a heavy burden on Kuwaitis or non-Kuwaitis."

On opening new lines, Mishari said this would be well studied to avoid potential loss, noting that the corporation used to open a new line every year.

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Lecture on delinquency

Li Abdullah Al Rujait from the juveniles' police at the CID gave a lecture about the establishment of a police squad for juvenile delinquents and its role and activities at Naser Al Mubarak Secondary School in Jahra area. He pointed out the importance of this squad in investigating cases and crimes committed by juvenile delinquents. He added that most of their offences are fighting, theft and violating municipality laws. A sociologist from the guesthouse of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour Saad Al Saad focused in the same lecture on factors that cause delinquency and methods to treat it. Picture shows students and teachers at the school listening to the lecture.

Arab health ministers meet

Medical care for Lebanese and Palestinians discussed

CAIRO, March 13, (Kuna): Arab health ministers today start deliberations to explore means of upgrading inter-Arab health co-operation to combat diseases and discuss health conditions in Israeli-occupied territories.

Inaugurating the meeting, the 15th session of the Arab Health Ministers' Council last night, Egyptian Prime Minister Dr Atfi Sidki stressed that Arab co-operation in health sphere is not less important than that in political and economic fields.

Medical care should not be viewed as merely a social question but also as a basic element of a comprehensive economic process, Dr Sidki said.

He underlined the significance of providing medical care for people suffering health problems, namely in Lebanon and the occupied Arab lands.

Dr Sidki urged for more attention by Arab states for funding health programmes, securing medical care and fighting epidemic and endemic diseases in the Arab world.

Addressing the session, Egyptian Health Minister Dr Raghib Diwaidar called for further co-operation among Arab countries, particularly in medicines production.

He stressed the need for more efforts to extend care to children, mothers and to protect individuals against epidemic diseases. He expressed concern over the deteriorating health conditions in the Israeli-occupied Arab lands.

Condemning the Israeli brutality in the occupied areas, Dr Diwaidar called for stepping up efforts to extend required assistance to ailing Palestinians.

Membership
Speaking at the opening session the director-general of the World Health Organisation, WHO, Dr Hiroshi Nakajima briefed the conference on developments concerning the PLO's application to join the organisation.

He said the application would be considered by member states in the WHO's conference later this month, hoping that the WHO General Assembly would study this important issue with utmost attention.

The meeting was also addressed by Moroccan Health Minister, current chairman of the executive office of the Arab Health Council, Al Tayeb Ben Al Sheikh who pointed out that medicines affairs represent the basic item on the agenda of the conference.

He said average medicines consumption of Arab countries accounted for about \$2.4 billion a year, noting that two thirds of the Arab world needs were imported from the outside world.

He called for formulating an Arab strategy of production and marketing of medicines.

The three-day conference will focus on conditions of residents of the Israeli-occupied areas and ways of rendering assistance to the Palestinian Red Crescent, in addition to exploring means to fight the killer disease, AIDS in co-operation with the WHO.

Kuwait's delegation to the conference is headed by director of Kuwait's Institute for Medical Specialties Dr Abdulla Al Refai.

He said that he hoped to be able to visit the occupied areas and see the situation of the people there.

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Smokers in Kuwait light up 30 a day

Dr Hussein Al Momen, secretary of the Kuwait Smoking Control Society and chairman of health at schools in Kuwait has said that Kuwait has the highest percentage of cigarette smokers, as the average smoking individual consumed 30 cigarettes daily, based on a statistical report published by the World Health Organisation in 1989.

He told a local daily that the percentage of smokers among males had increased over the past ten years from 13 per cent among secondary school students in 1979 to 46 per cent whereas the percentage of smokers among women of the age 24 and over which used to be two per cent had increased to 15 per cent in 1989.

Hesaid that it is regrettable that parents, social dignitaries, stars and others set down a bad example to youngsters who would get hooked up on tobacco as a habit.

Momen landed the recent decision by the council of ministers to disallow tobacco advertisement in public places, and to increase the customs taxation by 30 per cent besides printing the official warning on each tobacco packet and indicate the percentage of nicotine and tar, as a bid to persuade smokers to break off their habit.

Symposia

He said the society had always been in contact with world organisations to conduct studies on the health, economic and social effects of smoking. It also co-operated with Arab and International bodies to hold symposia on this subject to raise public awareness on the hazards of smoking, pointing out that the conference of Arab health ministers held recently in Riyadh had endorsed a recommendation to increase taxation on tobacco imports by 100 per cent.

He added that the authorities are currently considering the possibility to issue a special law to ban smoking in public places to protect smokers and non-smokers. The official stressed that the intended law would not encroach on personal freedom but would emphasise that the personal freedom stops where it begins to encroach on the freedom of others.

Society is co-operating with the Ministry of Education to hold lectures and symposia at schools and youths centres to educate student against smoking and to offer all needed help to smoking students who seek specialised aid to break off their habit.

Only three of the eight Kuwaiti Aids victims were willing to tell their stories.

Patient number 598, 25 years of age, single and unemployed comes from an illustrious Kuwaiti family. Before completing his high school he travelled to many different places and decided to continue his education at one European country.

He said that he opted to be educated abroad, as social restrictions in Kuwait do not allow youths to mix freely with each other and those of the opposite sex. Western males and females have far more freedom in matters of sex and intermingling, hesaid.

On his acquiring Aids, he said that he was infected as a result of a sexual encounter he had with one of the females who worked at a night club in the UK. Hesaid he still cannot believe that such a lovely girl with whom he spent one night could transmit to him the terminal disease Aids.

He said that what surprised him even more when he was diagnosed as an Aids victim, was the fact that he learnt that the girl was aware that she was infected.

Nightmare of Aids victims

Three Kuwaitis talk

EVERYBODY has been sick at some stage of their lives and have eventually recovered. The exception is an Aids victim — this disease has no cure and the final chapter "death" has been inevitably accorded to the patient's status.

This terminal disease is a mysterious disease and scientists since the plague has been baffled to find a positive cure against this virus.

The details that follow have been published by a local daily and are considered to be highly personal for Kuwaitis who have been confirmed as having Aids symptoms or classified as Aids virus carriers. These details are to be read as a warning of what Western civilisation has to offer to those who neglect their Islamic teachings.

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and yet continued to sleep with numerous partners. This came to light when he travelled to the UK for treatment and accosted her. Her reply was: "The more, the merrier."

He said that he momentarily lost control of his senses and almost killed the female by hitting and kicking her. She lodged a complaint with the police station and he was arrested.

On leaving the police station, he said he went to the most famous hospital in London where he went through several tests — all proved positive. He said that he lost his mind after hearing the test results and returned to Kuwait on the first flight out.

After confiding the truth to his mother, hesaid that she went into a state of shock and is now bed-ridden and continually dwells on the ultimate destiny of her son. On the other hand, he said that his father who is a very religious man, advised him to continuously pray to God for forgiveness and to recite the Quran. He added that he does feel safe while praying to God and believes that God will forgive him all his sins.

He added that a person when in dire circumstances comes to realise who his friends actually are. He said that some of his friends are still close to him despite the fact that they know the truth, though others whom he had helped, deny they even know him. He said that among his friends, he was known as a man who would joke all the time. Now, he barely smiles and prefers to isolate himself most of the time.

He said that people have the mistaken belief that being in the presence of an Aids victim can cause them to be similarly affected and stressed that extensive efforts should be made to spread Aids awareness among the public.

He said that in his concern for his predicament, he reads up on

all world news about the disease and tries to attend all symposia in the hope that he will learn that a cure has been found. Many times, he said that he was tempted to ask officials at these symposia some related questions, but refrained due to the fear that people might suspect that he is an Aids patient.

Patient number 243, 38 years of age and employed stated that he was married to one of his relatives, but was divorced. He overcame the divorce trauma, travelled to Europe. He said that he was totally spoiled by his family and allowed every wish. His father fearing that his son was sexually abnormal, sent him and his brother abroad to avoid family disgrace.

In France, after a period of three months, he lost his mind and to a woman in a night club. This was the occasion when he contracted the Aids virus. Certain changes in his very being prompted him to go to the hospital in Paris, where they confirmed his infection.

Returning to Kuwait, he kept the deadly secret to himself, but shortly, his family noticed that he had lost considerable weight and was pale and compelled him to go to the hospital, where his secret was made known to the family. He said that he was admitted to the Infectious Diseases Hospital where he received comprehensive tests and care and released. He continues to live and wait in hope for a cure, which he feels is almost like a mirage.

Patient number 101, 26 years old, single stated that he travelled to America to attend college and was befriended by a girl. On several occasions he had sexual relations with her and was astounded to learn from one of her friends that she was an Aids victim. On confronting her, she confirmed his suspicions and said that she had contracted it through using an infected heroin needle.

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Hempel exhibit

Hempel Paints made a prominent presence at this year's National Industries Exhibition. The exhibition, held annually at the Mafraq Fair Grounds, features exhibits from organisations that manufacture their products in Kuwait. Inaugurated by His Excellency Sheikh Faisal Abdul Razzaq Al Khalid, the minister of commerce and industry, the exhibition is a symbol of the rapid progress and development of Kuwait. The minister spent some time admiring the impressive

five Hempel Paints stand at the exhibition and making relevant inquiries. Hempel Paints is the first paint factory in Kuwait, manufacturing since 1966. The factory produces high quality coatings for homes, buildings, industry, marine, offshore and yachts.

Hempel Paints are available at select retailers throughout Kuwait and their headquarters in Shuwaibh.

Iraqi-water project underway

KUWAIT-IRAQI contract regarding the Iraqi water supply transport to Kuwait is reportedly progressing according to plan, and all administrative measures related to the project have been completed satisfactorily, sources said.

It has also been learnt that a technical Kuwaiti delegation will leave the country for Baghdad to discuss the technical aspects of the project with the relevant Iraqi authorities, and that Kuwait is considering the construction of an artificial lake in the Waf Aman area to be fed with fresh water supply from Shatt Al-Arab waterway preliminary to turning it into a touristic facility providing all essential services and a vast area of landscaped space.

This island will form a link between Iraq and Kuwait helping the passage ground for Iraqi fresh water supply pipes to Kuwait.

Drug symposium
ABU DHABI, March 12, (Kuna): An international symposium for combating drugs organised by the Interpol Ministry here in co-ordination with US agency specialised in combating drug trafficking, was underway here yesterday.

In opening the forum, Interpol Undersecretary Major-General Khalaf Khamsis said the need for international co-ordination to fight and limit the spread of drugs is growing.

TURKISH AFFAIR

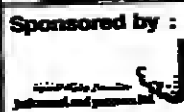
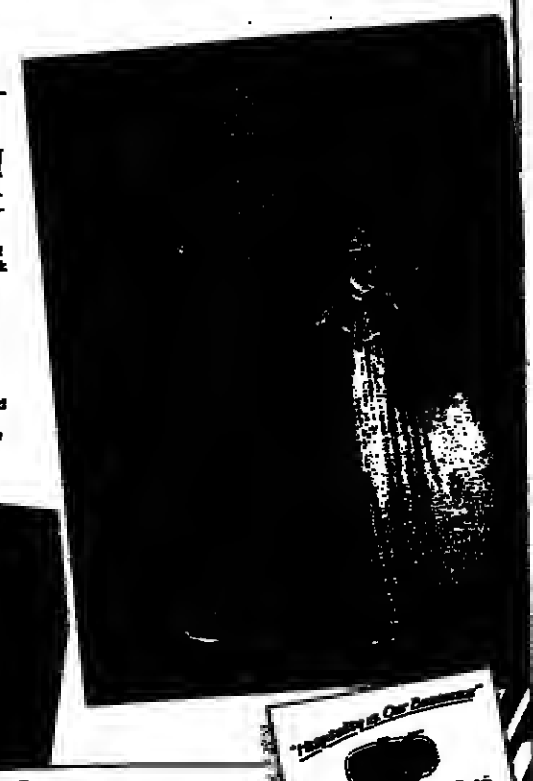
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Kuwaiti economy set to grow: survey

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EDITORIALS

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

BAD laws are the worst sort of tyranny — Edmund Burke, Irish-born statesman (1729-1797).

CIA prediction wrong
Najib still
in charge

WASHINGTON, (AP): The stalemate in the Afghanistan war is unravelling the political consensus that has characterized US policy toward the embattled nation for the past 10 years.

When the Soviets withdrew their troops from Afghanistan, CIA analysts predicted that in a matter of months the US-backed rebels would topple the Soviet-installed government and march triumphantly to the presidential palace in Kabul.

A year later, the fighting is at a stalemate. And Congress, until recently solidly behind the administration's policy with covert allocations that reportedly hit \$600 million annually, is starting to rebel.

The administration should not expect "the automatic and routine continuation of a programme that wasn't challenged for a decade," said Rep. Stephen Solarz, chairman of the House of Representatives Subcommittee on Asia who convened a hearing last week on Afghanistan.

At a hearing on the direction of US support for the mujahideen, or Islamic "holy warriors," as the rebels are known, Solarz and Lee Hamilton, the No. 2 Democrat on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, repeatedly questioned the need to keep the Afghanistan programme secret and argued for public debate of US policy.

The State Department and the CIA, meanwhile, appear engaged in a turf battle over policy toward the rebels.

US Afghan policy began to unravel soon after the Soviets completed the pullout of their troops in February 1989, a period that coincided with the transition from presidents Ronald Reagan to George Bush.

In the time it took the Bush administration to settle in, a vacuum formed which the CIA was happy to fill with the personnel it already had in place, said Barnett R. Rubin, an expert on Afghanistan who testified at Solarz's hearing.

Subsequently, the State Department began to weigh in but many of the operational decisions such as which rebel factions should get how many weapons are still in the CIA's hands, said Rubin, who is a research fellow at the congressionally endowed Institute of Peace.

"What disturbs me most about the American role in all this is the degree to which the United States has become involved in what are essentially internal Afghan affairs," said Robert Peck, who until last June was the administration's chief specialist on Afghanistan.

With the Soviet enemy gone and Afghan factions vying for political ascendancy, "the logic of the Afghan situation argues that we should be disengaging, (rather than) plunging in more deeply," he said in congressional testimony.

Secretly
For 10 years, the United States secretly trained and armed the mujahideen so they could defeat the Soviet troops who invaded Afghanistan in 1979.

Saudi Arabia was a major contributor to the effort, and the Pakistani secret service was put in charge of distributing the US weapons to the array of rebel factions headquartered in Pakistan.

The murky situation, in which the Pakistani secret service is reportedly exploiting divisions among the rebel leaders and playing the groups off against each other, was not helped by the March 6 coup attempt against President Najib.

At least 56 people died and 200 others were injured in the revolt by soldiers loyal to the renegade defence minister, Gen. Shah Nawaz Tanai. Tanai was supported by Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, a fundamentalist rebel leader who until last year was among the rebel commanders in the mujahideen coalition.

In recent months, it has become increasingly clear that Najib's government — with massive infusions of Soviet weaponry to the tune of more than \$300 million a month — was far more durable even without help from Soviet troops than the CIA predicted.

The mujahideen, hampered by internal divisions and by its orientation primarily as a rebel force, has been unable to wrest control of Afghanistan's cities from government troops than the CIA predicted.

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And Washington has been forced to rethink its moves. The objective is still the same, US officials say — getting rid of the Soviet-installed Najib. But the focus is shifting from doing so by military might to achieving the goal through a political settlement.

Protracted
"A military solution could be protracted," said one official who asked not to be named. "We want to try and shape events toward a political solution."

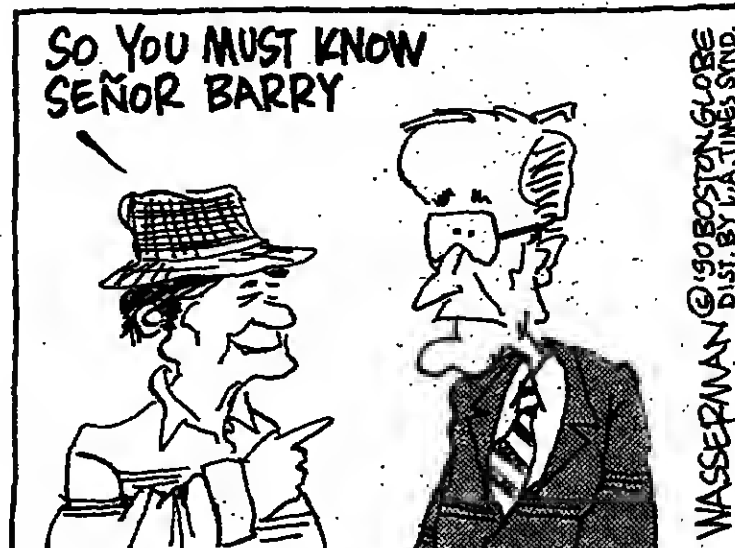
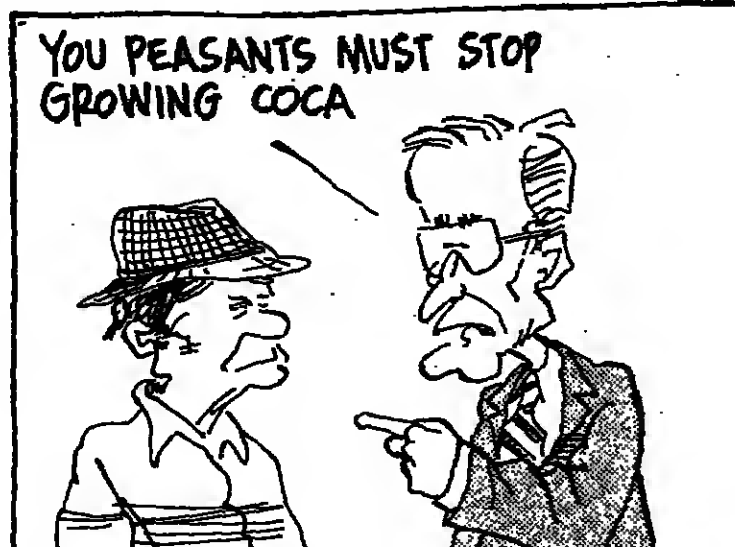
Later this month, State Department officials will meet with their Soviet counterparts to discuss Najib's future. The Kremlin is willing to support Najib's eventual ouster but insists he remain in charge of a transitional government, US officials say. The United States insists he must go.

The United States is directing its sights toward the convening of a council of all Afghan opposition groups this summer, a forum known as a "Shura," which would elect representatives to negotiate a transition to elected government. Experts outside government are sceptical the Shura will take place.

"Unfortunately, putting Afghanistan back together again is likely to take a long time — even if we knew how to do it," Peck said. "If there is one lesson we should have drawn from our role... it is that Afghans are not easily programmed. They do not hold the advice of outsiders in particularly high esteem."

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1558 — Ferdinand I assumes title of Holy Roman Emperor without being crowned by the pope.
- 1647 — France and Sweden sign Treaty of Ulm with elector of Bavaria.
- 1689 — Convention Parliament meets in Scotland, and William and Mary are proclaimed king and queen of England.
- 1757 — British Admiral John Byng is executed for neglect of duty resulting in loss of Minorca.
- 1840 — Constitution in Rome is promulgated by Pope Pius IX.
- 1917 — China severs diplomatic relations with Germany in World War I.
- 1957 — Eoka offers to suspend terrorist activities on Cyprus if Archbishop Makarios is released.
- 1965 — Israel's cabinet formally approves establishment of diplomatic relations with West Germany.
- 1973 — United States relaxes embargo on arms shipments to Pakistan and India.
- 1976 — Egypt's president Anwar Sadat asks Parliament to cancel treaty with Soviet Union, charging that Moscow failed to provide arms that had been promised.
- 1978 — Israeli troops invade Lebanon on mission Israel says is designed to "root out" commando bases.
- 1987 — At least 12 people are killed in escalated communist insurgency in Philippines with congressional elections almost two months away.
- 1988 — Iran and Iraq unleash missiles on each other's capitals as so-called "war of the cities" erupts.
- 1989 — Israeli foreign minister Moshe Arens accuses Palestine Liberation Organisation of "worst atrocities" since World War II.



Civil rights march marked

There's still much to be won

SELMA, Alabama, (UPI) — Civil rights activists complete a re-enactment of the 1965 Selma-to-Montgomery march this weekend, convinced that after a quarter-century that have not yet won their struggle.

They know that federal civil rights laws have not significantly changed the economic power and social order in towns such as this one in central Alabama.

The 27,000 Selmans are locked in a racially divisive and increasingly bitter fight for control of their public schools.

Selma, 50 miles west of Montgomery, Alabama's capital, is the heart of the black belt, so named because of its rich black soil.

Although blacks comprise 52 per cent of Selma's population, they are a 4-5 minority on the school board, which is appointed by the 11-member city council, where whites hold a one-vote majority.

Racially
Local civil rights leaders contend the boards decision to fire the black school superintendent was racially biased. They organised demonstrations that closed the schools, which are 70 per cent black, for five days. The National Guard was called in to re-open them.

The dispute marked the silver anniversary commemoration of the historic protests, highlighted by the re-enactment of the Mar 7, 1965 "Bloody Sunday" assault on civil rights marchers. In that atrocity, Alabama state assaulted the demonstrators, firing tear-gas canisters and swinging billy clubs. They were backed up by a mounted posse of vigilantes armed with whips and cattle prods.

Some black Selmans profess to believe that crack is part of a white plot to wipe them out. Although some white Selmans use crack, the highly addictive form of cocaine does not appear to have made substantial headway into the town's white suburbs.

Some people hoped that Selma's commemoration of its civil rights history would bring blacks and whites together, but the activities that drew nationwide media coverage appear to have driven the races further apart.

Mayor Joe Smitherman, a reformed segregationist whose tenure began the year before Bloody Sunday, figured Selma had a lot to celebrate. He proudly pointed out that blacks now hold a majority on the Dallas County Commission and represent the city in the state Senate.

The mayor pointed to other high-profile jobs held by blacks, such as the presidency of the George Corley Wallace Community College, named for his political mentor, Alabama's segregationist governor who once vowed "segregation forever".

Commemoration
When Smitherman tried to organize the commemoration, black leaders told him to get lost. Organization efforts were taken over by blacks, including state Sen. Hank Sanders and his wife, Rose, both Harvard-educated lawyers.

If the local black leadership succeeded in attracting national attention to what they billed as Selma's campaign for "justice in education," the mayor had less luck in touting what he views as the town's racial progress.

Any one who doubts there has been change in Selma should talk to Rep. John Lewis, D-Ga., who suffered a concussion when clubbed while leading the Bloody Sunday march.

"If anyone told me then I would some day be in Congress, I would have said they were crazy," said Lewis, arrested 40 times and often beaten during the 1960s struggle.

Bloody Sunday outraged the nation and spurred passage of the Voting Rights Act, which increased the number of black voters in Selma from about 600 in 1965 to the current 10,800.

The local chamber of commerce promotes Selma as the most important battleground in the successful struggle for voting rights, but the town remains sharply divided by race.

Whites live on the more prosperous west side of town, blacks on the east. Selma has two first Baptist churches, two Elks clubs and two YMCAs — one for each for whites and blacks.

About 10 per cent of Selma's white children attend local private schools, where enrollment is increasing because of turmoil in the public schools.

Afflicted
Selma, like many small towns in the deep south, is afflicted with a sagging economy. It needs jobs. Some black Selmans believe the city has been unsuccessful in attracting industry because it has held on to its old racial attitudes.

One of Selma's major problems is crack cocaine, which has given the town a soaring crime rate, drug-related murders and addicted babies. Drugs in Selma have done the most damage in black neighbourhoods.

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Foreign embassies with nationals held captive in Lebanon receive a stream of offers to sell pictures of hostages and tips on where they are held.

Bargain
Shiite sources say a hostage bazaar sprung up in Lebanon two years ago with kidnappers trying to bargain some of their foreign captives for huge ransoms.

Millions of dollars were reported to have been paid by West Germany, France and South Korea to gain freedom for their nationals.

Scores of media reports said France struck a deal involving money for the captors and arms for Iran in order to get its hostages out of Lebanon.

Some accused former Prime Minister Jacques Chirac of doing the deal in a bid to win votes in the 1988 presidential elections but it backfired and he lost to President Francois Mitterrand.

With macabre brinkmanship, some kidnappers have announced the "execution" of hostages and issued photographs of corpses that leave relatives in agony, uncertain about their authenticity.

Even video tapes have been used. Some showed hostages being hung while others had distraught captives begging their governments for help.

Talant
Bush has a hidden talent of mimicking, which he exhibits only in private. He does a good imitation of Clayton Williams, the front-running GOP "good ol' boy" candidate running for governor of Texas.

Bush, who claims his adopted Texas as home, has mastered the style and accent after years in the oil business in Midland. And he is relishing stories about Williams' free-wheeling go-for-broke style of politicking.

Bush, Barbara differ on abortion

WASHINGTON, (UPI): Many viewers reached the conclusion that Barbara Bush differs with her husband on the question of abortion after watching NBC television's "A Day in the Life of George Bush."

The first lady artfully dodged the question but made it clear that she was avoiding it simply because she did not want to appear to differ from her husband on major public issues.

Bush is adamantly against abortion, but in recent months he has been taking a different tack, asserting that there is room in the Republican Party for all points of view, including pro-choice supporters.

Controversial
Barbara, so far, except for a brief slip on the question of automatic weapons, has basically been able to avoid controversial issues. It is not required that the first lady must always agree with her husband. But she has decided that is the way to avoid headlines.

She religiously keeps a diary and maybe in her memoirs she will express her views more frankly. Right now she believes the better part of valour is to go along to get along.

Furthermore, she contends that she only wants to express her views on issues where she can make a difference.

NBC had nine camera crews at the White House the day of the filming of "A Day in the Life of President Bush" and they covered all bases. The editors had to crash all night to edit the film after some 12 hours of shooting. It was all reduced to one hour, and much of it apparently landed on the cutting room floor.

As usual, Millie, the Bush spaniel, played an important role in the documentary.

When reporters want to tease the powers that be at the White House, they quip who was "General Vesey."

Vesey was chairman of the joint chiefs of staff during president Ronald Reagan's administration, but Reagan, in giving videotaped testimony in the Iran Contra scandal case of former National Security Adviser Adm. John Poindexter, could not remember who Vesey was. "The name is very familiar," said Reagan.

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Letters to the editor

Vested interests

SIR: This refers to the news headlined "Confusion over affiliation" in your March 7 issue. Being an educationist I am truly distressed to know that once again International School of Pakistan, ISP, is in the headlines.

This institution, ever since its very inception, has been swathing and swaddling in the hands of vested interests who have not only used it as a tool for their interests but also for the cheap aim of entering into local political circles.

Since I have been associated with the school for quite some time, therefore I avail the opportunity to put the community in picture because the future of their children is at stake. The chain of continuous firing and demeaning of the learned principals of the school started from the early days of its establishment. Firing of Waseem, Dr. Rafiq Ahmad, Adil Raza, Chaudhary and finally Dr. Manzoor Ahmad has yet not satisfied the pursuit to find a better qualified principal for the school.

Until late 1980, the school accounts were never audited and the teaching staff was also not very different from what they have now. The school board had always been selected by the chairman and principal for a short spell there has never been an educational matter on the board to advise on the educational policy matters. The education council, which was in the charter right from the birth of the school, could never be realized.

Here comes yet another phase in the history of the school. The celebrating point is to know the immediate afflicted people of the community. These who are presently studying in this institution are paying the price for the bureaucratic pride. Why can't we understand that these are the Pakistani children who are suffering?

Simply because the school could not be run under the bureaucracy of some masters, the institution was thrown out of the affiliation of the Federal Board of Pakistan. The claim that, "The status of the school is that of a private institution and is not recognized by the board" is indeed disgraceful and should be denounced by every educated person regardless whether or not his children are studying at this institution.

The statement that "the embassy of Pakistan will not attest any future certificate of the school until there is an agreement on affiliation" is self-defeating since the very existence of Pakistan mission abroad is to serve the community and not to create issues for it.

It is shocking to know that the needy children had to wait in agony for such a long period of time to get their roll number issued by the Federal Board as private candidates. This is in spite of the fact that the parents have paid fees for 10 years only to know, at the end, that their children will be appearing as private candidates in their final examination.

I really cannot comprehend with the big idea of the advice to the afflicted parents to inform them of the presumptuous manoeuvres that the public servants are advocating for the so called amelioration of the community. The community is not at all happy with this gesture to solve this problem and is really thankful to them. When the future of their children is at stake, they don't want to rasp their wounds by hypocrisy.

The claim that the school does not meet the standards of the Federal Board is simply not true. The laboratory as well as the library of the school is well up to the standards required and comparable to any other Pakistani school in Kuwait. It was not so, why the Federal Board recognized the institution in the first place?

If it is quite convinced that if the present state of affairs had not developed with the school, it would have surely enjoyed the affiliation with the Federal Board. Therefore the accusation about the poor staff, equipment and account audit is simply hogwash and someone insisting on it should have the courage to openly declare his real designs honestly.

Dr. M. Afzal, Kuwait University.

Bhopal victims
SIR: The news item carried in your newspaper last week on compensation to the Bhopal victims ripped open a subject, i.e., inequities of international law.

The victims of Bhopal, as recently announced, will not receive a compensation of US\$12 per million. The real cost of obvious brutality from the multinational legal system is the call of the day. Law grinds the poor and rich men rule the law. This is what exactly has been proved. The rule of equal justice is not easily applied when the defendant is multinational and plaintiff thousands of poor Indians.

Union Carbide should have paid full and prompt compensation to the victims, but this was not the case. They agreed to pay an out-of-court settlement of \$470 million to the victims of the December '84 Bhopal plant explosion. As a result of this tragedy, 2,500 people were killed and more than 500,000 affected.

This settlement was far smaller than expected and that is why, after the out-of-court settlement was announced, Union Carbide shares rose by US\$2.00 because the compensation UC wanted to make was well below \$3 billion claimed by the victims. Later, the court settlement was rejected as justice was not done.

There are serious flaws in international law for Bhopal victims to seek redress against a subsidiary of multi-national parent company. Any legal action brought in the court takes time, not less than five years, if the case is expedited and the jurisdictional basis established. But the poor victims who have huge medical bills to run, due to their weakened bargaining power, cannot fight this system. There is more of law and less of justice.

The order of jurisdiction over Union Carbide could only have been obtained through US courts and once, even if they were successful, the attorneys of the multinationals are capable of concealing and distorting anything.

UC claims that the Bhopal incidence was caused by negligence. The Brussels-based International Federation of Chemical Unions (IFCU) and the World Union led an international mission of safety experts to Bhopal and have established that the main contributory factors have been Union Carbide's cost and staff cutting, and its neglect of basic safety measures.

After five years' wait, \$12 a month is a sham and serves as an eye-opener to the world conscience that the flaws in the international law, mainly jurisdiction and enforcement, should be put right. An international treaty is needed, under which it should be agreed that if the courts in a signatory country award compensation after due process of law, then the award would automatically be upheld and forced by courts in other signatory countries.

Although such bilateral arrangements exist among all other developed countries, the Third World countries have no recourse. Even if their courts held liable the parent company, the shareholders of the parent company can refuse to pay even though they had agreed in time of incorporation to abide by the law of the country of origin. This can only result in the Third World countries being left with the burden of attachment of assets but, basically, it's not an effective tool because in the case of Union Carbide the total assets in Bhopal were worth only \$30 million.

The peanuts-like compensation for the victims of Bhopal proves the point that law cannot pursue what it cannot act. No one should be above the law — poor or rich. International law go hand-in-hand with progress of human kind. Let the ambiguities in the law be made clear, uniform and precise.

The spider web which ensnares anything small should also be strong enough to hold the large things so that they do not escape justice. The delay in Bhopal has given multi-nationals a desirable incentive to site their dangerous plants in poor countries where, in case of accidents, the compensation is low and justice can be delayed and denied.

Jagjit Singh, Kanpur.

Language sexism surfaces in male society

'Obattalion sensation' in Japan

By Keiko Kambara

TOKYO: Language, it is often said, is a mirror of society. So when Japanese publisher Jiyu Kokumin-Sha made its annual announcement of the best words of the year in both the popular and new-word categories, it was revealing.

The words which were selected happened to be related to women," says publishing company official Akira Fukagawa. When the judges tried to find a male-related word among some 100 candidates, they were forced to conclude that "none had any impact on the society," he says.

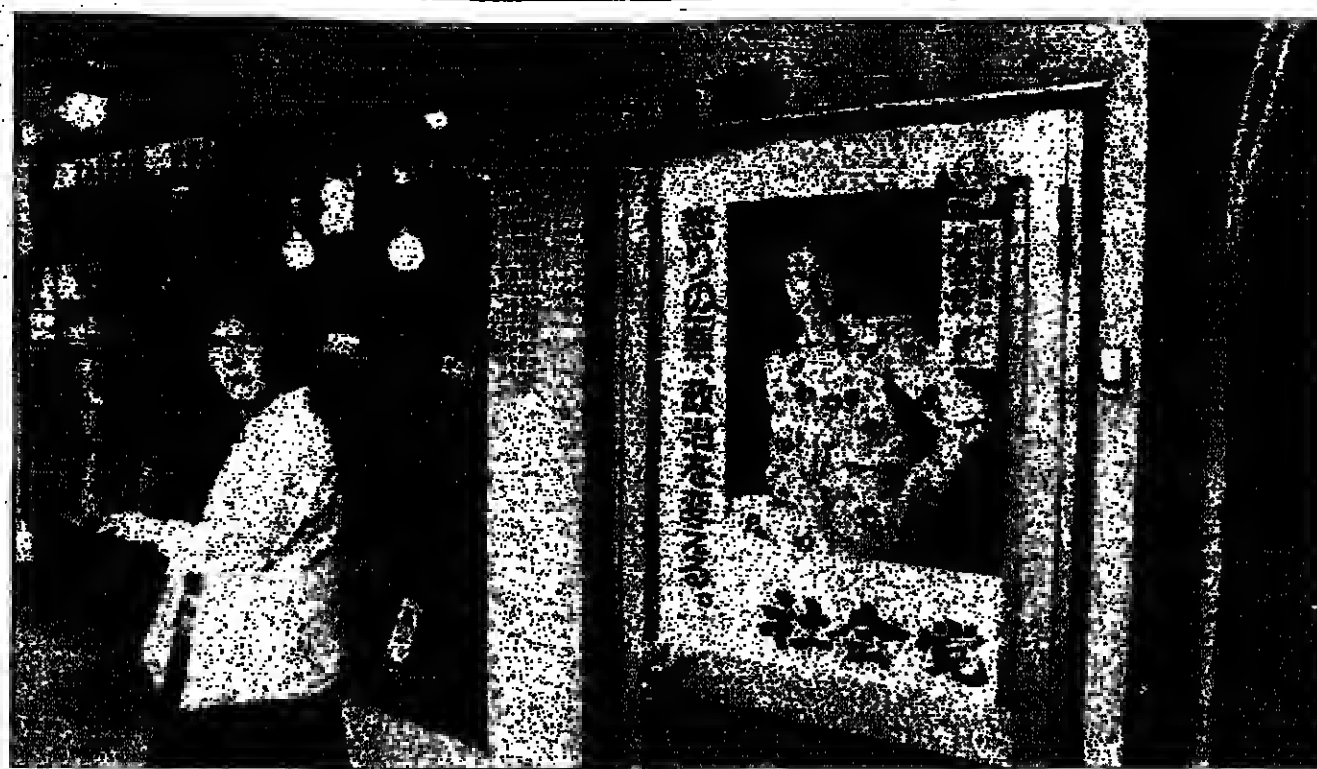
The emergence of woman Socialist leader Takako Doi as a major political figure this year symbolises for many Japanese the rising power of women in what is still largely a male-dominated society. Ms. Doi's party rode to victory in parliamentary elections last summer in large part on the strength of the women's vote.

The women who came out in large numbers, including as candidates, earned the label obattalion, the word selected as the most popular word of the year. Obattalion is a cartoonist's invention that mixes the Japanese word "obasan," referring to an older lady, and "battalion" the creature that stars in the popular American horror film, *Return of the Living Dead*. The newly minted Japanese-English word is used to describe a puffy middle-aged woman.

Obattalion became famous first from a cartoon, which made fun of the rudeness of such women. The cartoon became a hit by comically depicting familiar scenes of an obattalion grabbing a vacant seat on a crowded train, using even her hips to push other tired commuters out of the way. Either out of admiration or with tongue in cheek, Japanese women started to call themselves obattalions.

Phrase

But the word took on a more serious meaning during last July's upper-house election. Women took to the streets against the government, galvanised by a 3 per cent sales tax and by the womanising scandals of politicians, including former prime minister Sosuke Uno. The Socialist Party, under Ms. Doi's charismatic leadership, ran 13 women candidates, 12 of whom won seats. When the ruling conservative Liberal Democratic Party lost its majority in the upper house, for the first time in the post-war period, Doi joyfully labeled the event an "obattalion sensation."



A Japanese woman walks past a framed poster of Socialist Party leader Takako Doi in Tokyo.

The best new phrase award reflects a different side of the increasing voice of women in Japan. "Sexual harassment," an adopted English phrase, has become widely known in only the past few months.

The phrase captures the growing awareness in corporate Japan of the problem of sexual discrimination and

even abuse in the office. Increasingly women are protesting such behaviour as sexually insulting language, demands for sexual favours, or even the posting of calendars of naked women on office walls. Japan's first case against sexual harassment has been taken to court.

The phrase is being taken up almost daily by magazines and TV shows. Men awkwardly try to distinguish between

what is sexual harassment and what they hope is a joke. The emergence of sexual harassment as a new concept "may be a shock to male society," says Fukagawa, who reveals that five of the six judges were men.

The Japanese media have given lots of publicity to these events involving women, exaggerating that "the era of women has come." But, Fukagawa, who

has edited the Encyclopedia of Contemporary Words for the last 14 years, knows it is more complicated than that.

The change in the status of women is only one aspect of broader turmoil in Japanese social patterns. The middle-class "salaryman," the dedicated company worker, is feeling confused these days by those changes.

Reward

The idea that a hard-working Japanese should pick his company and work for it all his life, waiting patiently for his rewards, is under fire. In this record-breaking prosperity, just working hard for promotion cannot be the goal any more. Increasingly younger workers are opting to do *doda*, the third-place new word that comes from the name of a newly published employment magazine aimed particularly at people who want to change their jobs. Most men still feel a sense of obligation to their company. But the new freedom enjoyed by women is giving them second thoughts. "While men were faltering, women caught them flat-footed," says Fukagawa.

In many respects, the life of women looks livelier than that of Japanese men. Obattalions join social and cultural activities while their husbands work long hours in the office or factory. Younger single working women, freed from the male attachment to the company, are trying for a better life outside the office.

Collecting information from new magazines such as Hanako, the women often travel overseas for shopping to take advantage of the strong yen. They eat in good restaurants and regularly go to a gym or a tennis school. The magazine name received the second-place prize for a new word, as these women have come to be called "Hanakos."

Meanwhile ordinary Japanese businessmen are having to work ever harder to keep the economic boom going. Various nutrition drinks are sold for weary company warriors. One TV advertisement for such a drink features a robot-like businessman who sings, "Can you fight for 24 hours?" The phrase became a third-place popular word because, says Fukagawa, "it tells the sad situation of Japanese men."

The song for the commercial song became a popular record. Somewhere tonight, Japanese businessmen are certainly trying to forget their woes by singing the song aloud at clubs where salarymen gather.

Christian Science Monitor



Gurinder Chadha, one of the BFI's new directors.

New directors live up to challenges

By Ian Johns

OF the impressive selection of work from around the world shown at last year's Edinburgh Film Festival, in Scotland, eight short films deserve particular attention. They are the result of the New Directors scheme launched by the production board of the British Film Institute (BFI) in 1987 to help novice cinema directors develop their film-making skills.

The BFI placed advertisements in the national press and certain magazines inviting scripts on any subject to be produced in the film formats super 8, 16 mm or videotape, with a maximum budget for each of £20,000. Of the 440 scripts submitted, eight were chosen for their commitment to original and challenging work.

At a time when the next generation of cinema writers and directors can only gain experience through working in advertising and television, and financing personal projects is not realistic, the New Directors scheme is welcome initiative.

The eight chosen films are impressively diverse. They range from a vivid evocation of childhood memories (Bernard Rudden's *The Chalk Mark*) and a documentary of second generation Asians in Britain (Gurinder Chadha's *I'm British But...*), to more abstract work like the surreal miracles in a single room (Phil Hendy's *Holy Physic*) and the darkly comic events in a building as seen by its video security system (*The Long Way Round*) by Martin Jones and Graham Young.

Origins

An equally striking aspect of the New Directors project is the varied backgrounds of the film-makers. While some have come from art and film schools, others have had experience in such fields as theatre and architecture.

Apart from the Edinburgh Film Festival, the BFI has arranged for the films to be screened in London and in specialist regional film theatres across the country, with television showing to follow. Such exposure for new film-makers can prove invaluable in securing future work.

The New Directors scheme itself echoes the origins of the BFI production board which began as the Experimental Film Fund in 1953. It allowed directors like Ken Russell, Karel Reisz, Lindsay Anderson and Stephen Frears to make their first short films for the cinema before establishing themselves with full length features.

After running out of money in 1966, the funds was revived with government backing in 1969 and the production board emerged. Its initial attempts to make low budget features could only be sustained by working with Britain's developing independent film sector in the mid-1970s.

It is a relationship the board fostered throughout the 1980s, leading to critical success with such films as Derek Jarman's *Caravaggio*, Peter Greenaway's *The Draughtsman's Contract*, and Terence Davies' *Distant Voices, Still Lives*.

Such success is a tribute not only to the BFI's support for such apparently uncommercial films but to the value of the film short in nurturing individual talent. All three directors began their film careers making shorts, often funded by the BFI.

Freedom

With the support of such organisations as the Independent Television Companies Association and Channel 4, as well as co-production links with continental Europe, the production board continues to assist the making of British films. It provides support to commission and develop scripts, and help with production facilities and final distribution.

The BFI's feature film projects have always aimed to allow each director the freedom to take artistic risks without having to worry about commercial success. In the last four years the board has supported films that reflect subjects and locations neglected by mainstream cinema.

Consequently, recent productions have included *On the Black Hill* (set on an isolated farm in Wales), *Distant Voices, Still Lives* (about the working class in Liverpool), *Veronica Cruz* (about Argentine Indians), and *Femur Peter* (on life in the Orkney Islands, northeast of Scotland).

The commitment to smaller-scale, more experimental work is just as strong, as the BFI forges new links with film-makers interested in the creative freedom offered by cinema-shorts. While supporting innovative animators like the Brothers Quay, the BFI already has six films in production for its 1990 New Directors project and an increased budget for 1991.

Collection

For all this activity, however, film-making is only one part of the BFI's operations. Since opening in 1933, to "foster the art of film," its facilities have grown to encompass the broad range of moving images now produced by film, television and video.

The public has access to its library containing the world's largest collection of documentation about film and television. An education department helps schools, universities and community centres to study the media and film-making, while BFI publishing produces a wide range of books and periodicals.

The BFI co-ordinates the annual London Film Festival, which screens hundreds of films from nearly 40 countries. The festival has a core of support which shows over 2,000 films a year.

The BFI is also the main supporter of the National Film Archive which is internationally recognised for its work in the field of film preservation, holding more than 146,000 titles from 1985 to the present day.

A lesser known part of the archive's work is the search for lost films where the only surviving print may be hidden in a museum's vault or a private collection. Recent discoveries include two early films by Sir Carol Reed — the celebrated director of *The Third Man* and *Odd Man Out* — and a print of the historical drama *The Wandering Jew* (1933), starring Conrad Veidt, which was found in Spain.

21st century motoring concept

Smart cars, smart roads

NEW ORLEANS, (Reuters): "Smart" cars packed with sophisticated radar systems, "automated chauffeurs" and "head-up" windscreen displays may make driving a car in the 21st century an entirely new experience.

Engineers are beginning to design what they call the intelligent vehicle highway systems — smart cars and roads — that will some day make traffic jams and anachronism and driving a car more like piloting a jet fighter.

The new technology uses such old standbys as timed traffic signals, message-board displays along highways that warn of foul weather or road congestion ahead, and navigation systems that keep track of a car's location and display it on a map to the driver.

But that's only the beginning, according to engineers interviewed at a recent meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Over the next few decades, they said, traffic management centres will hook up with highways and high-tech on-board navigation systems to co-ordinate a region's roads in much the same way as an air traffic control centre co-ordinates air traffic.

The traffic management centres will gather information from sensors and infra-red cameras along roads and in the air, and from cars cruising the roads, the engineers said.

The centre will then make adjustments via two-way radio and satellite communications with the highway system and drivers.

Displays

Some information will be seen on "head-up" displays that beam onto a car's windscreen data the driver would otherwise see only by taking his eyes off the road to look at the instruments on the car's dashboard.

In the early 21st century, the engineers said,

the use of on-board radar systems will also lead to "automated chauffeur," which will eliminate many human errors that are the chief cause of traffic accidents.

The result of all this technology and co-ordination should be motorways with free-flowing traffic and far fewer accidents.

The chance of an American dying behind the wheel is now less than half of what it was 20 years ago, based on distance travelled, but the US Department of Transportation has warned that annual traffic deaths in the United States could rise to 80,000 by the year 2000 unless improvements are made.

About 45,500 people died in traffic accidents in the United States in 1989.

Research

In Europe and Japan, which have long experienced severe traffic problems, organised and heavily funded research programmes into the new technology are already under way.

Japan this year plans to begin wide-scale use of a sophisticated system that transmits information to cars fitted with on-board compact disc systems containing maps and other information displayed on a video screen.

The United States, however, has been slow to forge a national effort to develop the new technology.

"We have the best personal ground transportation system in the world. That wasn't the case 50 years ago — and may not be the case 20 years from now — unless we get ourselves organised and motivated," said Mounir Kamil, executive director of engineering sciences at General Motors Research Laboratories.

The United States has been slow to move

because its wide-open spaces and unmatched highway system have so far accommodated the country's 135 million vehicles — one for every 1.8 citizens.

But the system is beginning to show the strain. A 7.5 per cent rise in motor vehicles between 1984 and 1987 resulted in 42 per cent jump in urban motorway delays.

"It's a sharp rise because the system is already near its capacity. The prospects for the future are bleak," said Lyle Saxton, assistant for advanced technology systems at the Federal Highway Administration.

Delays

Congestion now causes some two billion vehicle hours of delay annually, and delays are projected to mushroom 400 per cent by the year 2000, GM's Kamil said.

The delays burn up vast quantities of petrol, pollute the atmosphere and result in traffic accidents.

Japan and Europe have invested a total of some two billion dollars in the new technology, slightly more than the United States is spending, according to Kamil.

Many of Europe's programmes are included in the Eureka Project, a five billion dollar, 19-country effort to stimulate co-operative research and development between industries and governments in Europe.

Europolis, one of the major schemes, is spending \$150 million over seven years to design smart road systems and to develop technologies to automate driving.

In the United States, the Federal Highway Administration plans to propose boosting its budget for the new technology to 100 million dollars in fiscal 1992 from 13 million dollars proposed for 1991 and about three million dollars this year.

Your Health

High cholesterol — a risk for the elderly

Coronary heart disease remains, by far, the most common cause of death in the United States, and all Western industrialized societies (Japan has thus far avoided this problem, but with the invasion of their country by McDonalds and that ilk, they are rapidly developing our chronic disease problem). Of people in this country over 45 years of age, about 1 of 2 will die of a heart attack, twice as many as will succumb to cancer.

Naturally, we are all aware of what are considered to be the main risk factors for coronary artery disease: elevated serum cholesterol, hypertension and cigarette smoking. There are others that are important as well, and we discuss them from time to time, but the above 3 are considered by most authorities to be the most important to control.

Specifically, although cholesterol has come under some attack recently, the evidence that high levels of it in the bloodstream are associated with coronary heart disease is overwhelming, and don't believe anyone who tries to tell differently. This doesn't mean it's the only cause, and it does seem to be true that there is a "cholesterol mafia" in this country — those scientists who for one reason or another have a vested interest in magnifying the importance of cholesterol levels — but it should not by any means be dismissed.

So, we should continue to focus on controlling our levels of total cholesterol, and our levels of the "bad" LDL (should be low) and the "good" HDL (should be high). One segment of the population to which this message has not been addressed enough are the elderly. In the past, some evidence has indicated that elevated serum cholesterol levels were not as important in older people as they were in younger ones. As the graying of America continues, sorting this out assumes greater importance. During the next 50 years, it is expected that the proportion of people older than 65 will increase from the present 11% to more than total 20% of the total population.

The goal of prevention or delay of coronary heart disease in older people is important not only for them, as at the very least the quality of the later years of life will be vastly improved, but also from a public health standpoint, as millions of dollars would be saved.

With this in mind, a group of researchers in Hawaii, as part of the large ongoing Honolulu Heart Study, evaluated the independent role of serum cholesterol level as predictor of coronary heart disease. It was found that those with the highest levels of serum cholesterol had a 64% greater risk of having coronary heart disease than those with the lowest level. This was the same relative risk for middle aged men, and is highly significant.

What this study has done is contradict previous reports that the cholesterol levels of older people are not important predictors of having a heart attack. On the contrary, they are just as important as for any other age group. So, the bad news is that, if you're over 65, you still can't have cheese cake every night. But the good news is that if you don't, you have just as good a chance to prevent heart disease as your younger counterparts.

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World War II: long ago but not far away

Journey through the past

NEW YORK, (UPI): The day dawned grey, the English Channel was rough and the men were scared — but they swarmed up a strip of sand on the Normandy Coast called Omaha Beach and 2,500 Americans fell there.

It was almost half a century ago, on June 6, 1944, that the Allies invaded Hitler's fortress Europe and battled their way to the Rhine and beyond. Along with the movements of armies are the memories of the men who fought there.

Bill Moyers accompanies a group of veterans of that long-ago war as they travel by bus across France in *From D-Day to the Rhine*, which aired on PBS television on March 11.

There were heroes in their war, but none of the tinsel glory that makes battle look so attractive in a darkened, safe movie theatre.

The tour, conducted by the Division of

Continuing Education at the University of Texas, begins by boat, landing at Normandy. From there the men revisit the hedgerows, moving through the Ardennes forest, the area where so many Americans died in Battle of the Bulge. It ends on the banks of the Rhine.

Veterans

Moyers explained the reason why he went along for the ride, saying: "It occurred to me ... while reading the obituary page, that the time will come when we will read that the last American soldier to have fought in World War II has died. I remember reading a similar obituary about the last veteran of the civil war to die, and I thought to myself then how much I wished I could have seen him interviewed in person."

Looking at those veterans of World War II, you realize Moyers is right —

they are aging, grey — no longer the young men you see in old movies, in old newsreels. The same men look heart-breakingly young in occasional snapshots from their war days that Moyers shows on his special.

Stand with Howard Randall, from Jonestown, Texas, before the white cross that marks the grave of Edward J. Myers. Back in the war, Randall was 21-year-old second lieutenant in Patton's third army. Myers, who was 22, was a first lieutenant and good buddy.

Brave

Randall's voice breaks when he tells Moyers how, wounded himself, he learned of his friend's death.

"I was hurt and exhausted," he says. "I didn't show as much emotion then as I do right now."

He also says the war changed his image

of himself — he isn't afraid to say he's scared because "You can't be more Rambo than running at the enemy shooting your gun." He is secure in the knowledge that "at one time on one day I was fairly brave."

The show begins with Omaha Beach, as the men describe how frightened they were. For those who have never fired a gun at an enemy — or, more importantly, never had an enemy fire at them — it may explain a lot.

Some of the stories are funny, like the one former Capt. Paul Marable Jr. of Waco, Texas, tells of standing on the bloody beach at Normandy and hearing a voice ask, "Do you know how I could get back to England?"

That was what everybody wanted to know, but he turned around to see an American in full dress army air corps uniform.

It turned out the man was flying what he was promised would be his last mission of the day and he had a date that night, so he donned his dress uniform under a coverall. His plane was hit, he parachuted onto the beach — and he wanted to get back to England for his date.

Asked about their feelings toward the German soldiers they fought, most of the men felt no great hate — but the German soldiers were out to kill them and one of them cited what he said was Gen. George Patton's dictum — "Our duty is not to die for our country — it's to make them die for theirs."

Charles MacDonald, of Arlington, Virginia, a retired colonel in the US Army Reserve, had turned 22 just weeks before he was told he and his men must hold their position in the Battle of the Bulge "to the last man."

Hollywood's troubled children of stars

Pressures on daughters can be unbearable

THEY seem to have everything — fabulous wealth, well-known names and glittering successful parents.

They are Hollywood's troubled daughters of the stars. The casualties of Tinseltown, where the pressures of being the offspring of the rich and famous can be unbearable.

Some manage to survive intact, breaking free from their parents' shadow. Others are less fortunate, and slip into a self-destructive lifestyle, turning to drink and drugs as a means of escape.

The latest victim is Francesca Hilton, 40-year-old daughter of movie queen Zsa-Zsa Gabor, by her second marriage, to hotel magnate Conrad Hilton.

For her, life under the watchful eye of Hollywood gossip-mongers finally proved too much, when she ran down a Beverly Hills street chasing a neighbour's maid. And, as if that wasn't enough, she then jumped into the path of passing cars until the police picked her up and wheeled her off to a psychiatric ward.

Distraught Zsa Zsa blamed her daughter's breakdown on the diet pills Francesca had been taking to reduce her weight from 145lb to 125lb.

Yet Gabor and Francesca were close. When Zsa Zsa married her eighth husband, Fredrick von Anhalt, Duke of Saxony (the title is disputed) in 1986, it was Francesca who defended her mother's much-married ways.

Danger

But the danger signs were there. As if in deliberate contrast to her mother, Francesca has never married, while her weight problem ensured she could never compete with Zsa Zsa's ultra-glamorous image. For, although she is old enough to draw her pension, Zsa Zsa still describes herself as "one of the world's most beautiful women."

Inevitably, Francesca always lived in her mother's shadow, emerging only in 1982 when she tried to start a business arranging celebration parties for divorced couples.

Growing up in Hollywood as a star's offspring often means growing up disturbed.

The likes of Jane Fonda, Liza Minnelli and Jamie Lee Curtis survived and became stars in their own right. Others, such as John Barrymore's daughter Diana, sank through drink and drugs into suicide.

For some, such as Joan Crawford's daughter Christina and Bette Davis' daughter B.D. Hymann, the answer has been to fight back, writing bitter best-sellers about life with "Mommie Dearest."

One girl who went to the edge of disaster only to be saved by famous mother was Victoria Eklund, the beautiful daughter of pin-up blonde Brigitte Eklund and the late Peter Sellers.

Brought up among the cocaine jet-set friends of her mother, Victoria soon found herself in such trouble that a jail sentence seemed inevitable. She became involved in one of Hollywood's most shocking drug scandals, a warrant was made for her arrest and, when she did finally give herself up,

she was set at a whopping \$100,000.

Britt, now married to 25-year-old rock star Jim McDonald of the Stray Cats, immediately blamed herself.

She said: "I've never been a bad mother, but perhaps I wasn't as attentive as I should have been. I always told her I'd kill her if I ever caught her with drugs. It was perfectly clear."

Rescue

But Britt came to the rescue, determined to put Victoria back on the right path. And it seems she has done the trick just in time.

Britt adds: "Unlike before, she helps around the house and now really treasures our family life together which means so much to me."

"Victoria has changed so much. I believe she lived under the grand illusion that she didn't have to do anything, that Victoria Sellers, with her body and her face and contacts, was going to make it."

"Victoria actually said: 'Mum, I was wrong. I was naive, I was stupid,' and for her to admit that must have been incredibly difficult. Hearing that made me very happy. I believe she now realises the mistakes she made."

"I've made mistakes too in my life and perhaps that's why I understand her so well. She's still my little girl, and she needs a mother."

But at least Victoria Sellers always knew she could count on her mother. For actress Jane Fonda, the relationship with her famous father, Henry, was far from easy.

On screen he was the all-American hero. At home though, Jane remembers an undernourished father, who never said, "I love you."

She had to become a superstar herself before she could be reconciled with him, on the set of the hit movie *On Golden Pond*, about a difficult father-daughter relationship.

As the daughter of Tony Curtis and Janet Leigh, Jamie Lee Curtis felt the full force of the Hollywood publicity machine.

She recalls: "No matter what we did, there would always be someone saying: 'Stop, Janet, let's take a picture of you and your two beautiful daughters.'"

That wasn't the only problem for the actress, now known as "The Body". Her father was often too busy to pay any attention to her.

Comparisons

She adds: "For a long time I knew my father's name better than I knew him, we see each other much more now. I understand him."

And when she became an actress herself, there were constant comparisons with her parents and the whispers that she "only got the job" because of her name.

In Jamie Lee's case however it is she who has had to put up with her father's wild ways.

Curtis, who is rarely seen without a beautiful blonde on his arm, admits: "She is still upset. But I don't think a child should expect anything from a parent. I don't ask too much of her and she doesn't ask too much of me."

"I insist on living my life, mistakes

and all, as my children must do. Perhaps my daughter has not forgiven me for the old me."

Curtis and Fonda grew up in Hollywood's golden era, but according to Tippi Hedren's daughter, Melanie Griffith, things haven't changed.

At 15, Griffith was the live-in lover of Miami Vice actor Don Johnson, nine years her senior. When they broke up, Griffith spent her early twenties drinking and taking drugs.

Meanwhile, superstar Liza Minnelli has been waging a constant battle against a drugs problem — although she refuses to blame it on the pressures of her childhood.

Her parents, the singer Judy Garland and film director Vincente Minnelli, divorced in 1951, when Liza was five and she had to follow her mother through the ups and downs of life on the road.

She admits: "It has always been a battle being good enough for me. It had nothing to do with my parents. It really didn't. They always had huge belief and trust in me, and love. Living up to myself was much harder."

"But I've come through. It's such a relief when somebody says: 'You've got something wrong with you. It's not your fault — you're a victim. Once you realise that, you can turn around and face it and say, 'Yes, I am chemically dependent.'"

Pressure

"I've got a problem, but I can handle it with the help of a lot of people. Plus a lot of faith."

Liz has needed far more than just faith and has made several life-saving trips to the famous star's Betty Ford clinic for treatment. Now finally, she seems to have beaten her drugs problem.

"If you get your mind right, you can do anything. The biggest thing is just keeping it simple," she adds.

But, for Isabella Rossellini, being the daughter of famous movie idol, Ingrid Bergman has meant growing up under a special pressure — the pressure to succeed.

Isabella's parents divorced when she was six, but they had already instilled in her, a great strength of character and sense of family.

She recalls: "They gave me a strong indication of how they wanted me to live. They were principled people and had an enormous influence on me."

But Isabella's childhood was very painful. She suffered from curvature of the spine, a disfiguring condition that meant months of tortuous stretching sessions and major spinal surgery. After that she spent a year in plaster from her neck to her hips.

Ingrid never forgot those months of torment. She explains: "Once she said to me, 'Mother, don't cry so much. I'm not sorry this has happened to me. In future when people talk about pain I'll know what it means.'"

Yet the divorces, neglectful parents, the pressures of stardom and "too much too soon" are only some of the problems that have hit Hollywood's children. Then there are the real horror stories.



Joan Crawford seems to have the perfect family around her as she relaxes with her twins Cathy and Cindy and husband Alfred Steele.



Lovely Britt Eklund pulls a motherly arm round her daughter Victoria. The youngster, from Britt's marriage to funnyman Peter Sellers, has been caught up in a huge drugs ring.



Sultry starlet Isabella Rossellini: she has grown up under the constant pressure of her mother Ingrid Bergman to make something of her life.

Goldberg knows all about being poor

ZANY actress Whoopi Goldberg knows all about being poor. Before she shot to fame, the star of *The Colour Purple* supplemented her single-parent allowance by taking jobs as a bricklayer and a cosmetician in a mortuary.

Now the 40-year-old star is using her experiences as she plays a down-on-her-luck character — an escaped mental patient who teams up with a brain-damaged man (James Belushi) — in her new movie *Homer and Eddie*.

The film, Goldberg's fifth since her Oscar-nominated role as Celie in *The Colour Purple*, is a downbeat comedy and follows this odd couple on their travels from Arizona to Oregon.

In a race against time, the pair are trying to reach Homer's father, whom he hasn't seen for 20 years — before the old man dies of cancer. The couple meet when Homer mistakes her parked car for a abandoned jalopy and crawls in the back to spend the night.

They strike-up an unusual friendship and Eddie — who is in fact, dying — agrees to drive Homer to Oregon, embarking on a series of adventures and changing the slow-witted Homer's life forever.

Goldberg, whose last four films have flopped, is desperate for a hit. She made *The Colour Purple* five years ago and, although critically acclaimed for her role, she hasn't managed to live up to her Oscar nomination.

Jumpin' Jack Flash, which came after *The Colour Purple*, was a box-office failure and *Burglar*, *Fatal Beauty* and the *Telephone* were flops, too. She claims a film business of failure is of no concern to her and has a respect for the film industry which she calls "a small bunch of people with small minds."

At heart, Goldberg is still the theatre actress who surfaced 10 years ago in San Diego, California, performing in clubs, art museums and local theatres.

Originally performing with a partner, she went solo and in 1984 hit New York with an off-Broadway one-woman show.

Although it was a comedy, she performed five monologues of many different characters ranging from a drug addict to a seven-year-old black girl who wants to be white.

Talent

She admits that this is where her talent lies. "I can improvise because most of my material is written in my head and delivered by my mouth swiftly," she says.

Director Mike Nichols (*The Graduate*, *Catch 22*) saw the show, loved Goldberg and transferred her to a major theatre.

That's where Steven Spielberg saw the show and asked Goldberg to perform for him and a group of friends at a private party. He later offered her the part of Celie and the rest is history.

The girl born Caryn Johnson to a single mother in New York says she could identify with Celie, who is Alice Walker's novel is raped by her own father, married at 14 to a brutish man and has her two children taken away from her.

"She is a very strong person," says Goldberg, who as a single mother has brought up 15-year-old Alexandra after walking out on her marriage to a drug addict in 1974.

She says of him: "I married the guy because he was my drug counsellor. At the time I thought, 'no-one's going to want me. I'm such a mess. We got married but it didn't work out.'"

Four years ago she met and married Dutch cameraman David Claessens but they were together only two years.

Wary of relationships and her privacy, she never discusses either marriage or daughter Alexandra, of whom she is fiercely protective. Friends say she doesn't want the girl to grow up into a Hollywood brat exposed to the excesses of Tinseltown.

Will *Homer and Eddie* be the long-awaited hit and make Whoopi flavour of the month again? Not surprisingly she doesn't much care. "When you're flavour of the month, you have to be more critical of yourself because everyone is telling you how marvellous you are," she says. "You can only be a female something. I prefer to see myself as sexless and colourless. The art of acting is to be other than what you are."

In *Homer and Eddie*, her character Eddie is suffering from a brain tumour and in deep depression. Unpredictable, she is drawn to Homer because he is her last chance for friendship and despite the continual abuse heaped on him, he proves to be a worthy friend.

Hollywood doesn't give you too many chances at stardom. For Whoopi Goldberg, this movie may represent that final chance.

Old wrecked cars 'harvested' in disused barns

'Kidnapping' hotbed

WHEN the local policeman called at a remote farmhouse he was surprised at the number of old wrecked cars apparently "harvested" in disused barns.

As soon as the word was passed to Scotland Yard they knew exactly what was going on.

They'd stumbled on a car "kidnapping" hotbed, using crashed luxury cars to disguise the identity of stolen limousines and sports cars for a hungry world market.

Explained detective Ken German of the Yard's Stolen Vehicle Squad: "We started an undercover watch and on that first morning a huge lorry was driven into the farmyard that had just been reported stolen."

"Within minutes luxury cars were arriving in a constant stream. After an hour one of the crooks even drove up in a JCB bulldozer, stolen only minutes before."

"That gang finally led us to more than 100 stolen vehicles, all of which were swapped about and then shipped abroad from the barns in Battle, Sussex."

"We also found a host of stolen shotguns and, in a shallow grave, cases of drugs financed by the hot car business."

We were talking in the top secret North London garage where the police hit squad store £1 million worth of exotic Rolls Royces, Bentleys, Ferraris and Porsches, either unclaimed by their owners or awaiting the result of criminal trials.

Profit

Some have been held there for more than two years while the police work to put the high-class car thieves behind bars.

The profit from one stolen Rolls Royce alone could be as much as £60,000.

For the overworked officers who have to stem the theft tide — there have been more than 6,184 high-value cars unaccounted for in the past four years — it is a long hard road.

"Most cars are shipped

abroad or put into hiding within minutes of being stolen," says detective superintendent Tony Poole, in charge of the vehicle investigation squad garage.

"The villains are now totally professional and steal cars to order. Within a day the car can be in the hands of its new owner anywhere in the world, from America to the Middle East."

"But we are constantly in touch with foreign intelligence agencies and once in a while we are able to surprise them."

"The number of daily motor thefts is incredible," says detective constable Steve Wimpenny.

"In London alone there is a car stolen every 20 minutes, so there's plenty of work for us. More than £3 million worth of cars are stolen each year in Britain and there is £1 million

worth of high-value cars here at the garage."

"Lower quality cars are not usually the target of the professional," he adds. "Those cars are stolen by joy-riders and are recovered within 28 days. If the cars are still missing after that, we are informed."

Suspect

The problem the police face is not only one of tracking down the criminals but also proving that the suspect car has been stolen. Thieves now use an elaborate method called "ringing" to change a car's identity.

"Sometimes cars have been so well rung we have to strip them right down to prove original identity," explained Steve.

"Ringing is so easy that it is always hard to detect. The process is simple. The thief steals a car and goes to a scrap yard to

buy a similar car which has been wrecked. With the wreck he also purchases the registration document, claiming that he intends to rebuild the car."

"What he really does is swap the chassis and engine numbers, the registration plates and documents over to the stolen car. The thief might even register the car as rebuilt with the national licensing centre in Swansea, and with all the identification numbers and documents tallying it is ready to sell."

"What we now try and do is keep a look-out for expensive wrecks at scrapyards. If we spot a written-off Rolls Royce we will keep an eye on it. If the car is bought we find out who took it."

"Usually the cars are irreparable so if the car is then reported to have been rebuilt it is likely to have been involved in a

ringing exercise."

Steve's crime-hunting partner Ken German reckons the "watch and follow" technique is one of the squad's most successful methods.

"We are constantly on the lookout for expensive wrecks," he says. "It obviously takes a long time but it has been very successful."

Gangs

Another way of disposing of stolen cars is to break them down as spare parts. Even in component form, a Rolls Royce or Bentley can be worth £20,000 to overseas customers.

But Ken has discovered there are hundreds of ways for the professional crook to break into a car.

"We discovered one gang who had a key-cutting device in their car," he says. "They had look

outs on the car park entrances and as drivers parked and left their cars they moved in."

"Two of the team knocked the lock out of the boot — took the serial number — and replaced the lock. Then they cut a key in the boot of their car and could steal the car with a key that fitted the doors — just like a genuine owner."

"After two weeks we finally bagged them in the act of cutting a key."

The squad also keeps its eye on private adverts in newspapers — a favourite selling ground for professional car thieves.

"Very few cars are taken to dealers because they know what to watch for," says Steve Wimpenny.

"The advertisement usually says to phone between a certain time — which means he is proba-

bly at a phone box. If an interested buyer phones up he will probably offer to hire the car round and ask for a banker's draft in payment. These are the signs that should set alarm bells ringing."

The average buyer doesn't usually check documents at all. He may check the registration number but he should check engine and chassis numbers as well. Of course, if the car has been properly rung the crooks will have changed those too, so it is not a foolproof test.

It is always the buyer who is left empty-handed if the squad discover that a car has been stolen.

In most cases the insurance companies have already paid out to the original owners of the car which now legally belongs to them.



A Rolls Royce gets its fortnightly wash in the stolen vehicle garage.



Thousands of stolen car parts recovered by the stolen vehicle squad.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Saadoun calls for tougher Gulf stance

GCC currency unification ruled out

By Jadranka Porter
Arab Times staff

A LEADING Kuwaiti economist Jasssem Al Saadoun has ruled out the possibility of the currency unification in the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) states saying they have secretly agreed to scrap the plan, formally endorsed in 1981.

He also called for a tougher GCC stance in their negotiations with the European Economic Community to secure a free trade pact.

The GCC currency unification is no longer the issue, Saadoun said citing rivalries among the

states as a reason why the plan was dropped.

He was commenting on the speech earlier this week by the UAE central bank governor Abdul-Malik Al Hamar who urged the Gulf states to put the plan into action.

Speaking at a banking conference in Bahrain, Al Saadoun said: "The officially declared stand is for the unification of our currencies and studies done over the past seven years support this policy. However, we are still waiting for a political decision to enforce all these studies."

But Saadoun said the political



Jasssem Al Saadoun
decision is not forthcoming. And he stressed that the lack of

political will which has hampered plans for the unification of currencies is also plaguing negotiations to unify customs tariffs. A unified GCC customs policy is a condition set by the European Economic Community before the two groups begin negotiating a free trade pact. The GCC states have asked the EEC to lift tariffs of 12 to 14 per cent imposed on the Gulf petrochemical exports to protect local industries.

A single currency for the region would substantially boost the area's bargaining power on the world markets and increase their share of the world trade,

Saadoun said.

But the political sensitivity of the plan that implies one central bank and one monetary policy for the entire region has discouraged the Gulf states, which seek total independence, and a leading role for themselves.

Saadoun pointed out that the blueprint, discussed since the 1960s, is ready and technically can be put into practice within two to four years. A single currency is not a new phenomenon in the region, he said, recalling that before they got their independence the Gulf states used the rupee as a common currency with the Central

Bank of India as the monetary policy regulator.

In 1969 Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar and the UAE took steps to unify their currencies but the plan failed after Saudi Arabia raised objections.

Although the GCC countries remain divided on the issue of customs tariffs, that now range from 4 to 25 per cent, they could still make progress in the talks with the EEC if they used better logic, Saadoun concluded. "They have bargaining chips and they should use them," he said, adding the GCC overseas investments concentrated in Western Europe, their arms pur-

chases and the trade deficit with EEC.

He said that the EEC knows that they are talking to a divided group and unless the GCC states act in unison they will not get preferential treatment, Saadoun said.

The GCC countries agreed to unify their customs tariffs back in 1987. This pact failed when Dubai, disregarding the agreement, reduced customs charges prompting the rest of the UAE to follow suit. The Gulf states are now divided on the issue with poorer states demanding higher tariffs to beef up their revenues.

US foreign trade deficit declines

WASHINGTON, March 13, (AP): The deficit in the broadest measure of US foreign trade decline to \$105.89 billion last year, the smallest in five years, as higher merchandise exports and increased foreign travel helped to trim the deficit, the government said today.

The Commerce Department said that the current account deficit shrank 16.3 per cent from a \$126.55 billion imbalance in 1988.

However, even with the improvement, the current account deficit remained above \$100 billion for the sixth consecutive year. The 1989 total was the lowest since a \$104.10 billion deficit in 1984.

The year ended on a positive note as the October-December deficit declined to \$20.57 billion, down 10.2 per cent from the third quarter, and the smallest quarterly imbalance in almost six years.

The current account, also known as the balance of payments, is the most important trade statistic because it measures not only the flow of merchandise across borders but also trade in services and investments.

The United States ended the 1980s in a far different position than it began the decade. In 1980, there was a small surplus in the nation's current account. America was the world's largest creditor country and its earnings on overseas investments were enough to offset personal deficits in merchandise trade.

However, as Americans transferred billions of dollars into foreign banks to pay for merchandise imports, the investment cushion shrank rapidly and disappeared altogether in 1985, when the United States became a net debtor for the first time in 71 years.

America's debtor position stood at \$332.5 billion at the end of 1988 and today's report indicates that it grew to around \$630 billion last year. The exact accounting of this figure will not be released until later in the year.

The growing foreign ownership in the United States has triggered a heated debate over whether the country is losing control of its economic destiny to foreigners.

Some economists predict that the current account deficit could actually begin rising again this year, reflecting a higher dependence on foreign oil and more sluggish sales of US exports.

That development would spell bad news for the Bush administration, which is counting on further improvements in trade to bolster America's flagging industrial sector and add to domestic economic growth this year.

For 1989, the merchandise trade portion of the current account shrank by 11 per cent to \$115.25 billion as growth in US exports outpaced a continued rise in imports.

Dollar rallies

LONDON, March 13, (Reuters): Speculation about Japanese interest rates, the British political scene and the cost of German monetary union weighed on currency markets today, helping the dollar to a 2-1/2 week high against the yen in Europe.

In the absence of significant central bank intervention apart from Bank of England dollar selling for yen in Europe's morning, dealers took the opportunity to try a cautious test of upward foreign exchange levels and the US currency rallied.

London's interbank dollar bid/ask spread moved to 1.7175 and 1.7225, up from 1.71 and 1.7225 yesterday.

Earlier in Tokyo, the Bank of Japan had been active in the market, it had finished at 1.7118 and 1.7267 after 1.7137 and 1.7268 at New York's Monday close.

Pressure from the firm dollar pushed gold to its lowest close in London for 2-1/2 years at New York's Monday close.

Pressure from the firm dollar pushed gold to its lowest close in London for 2-1/2 years at New York's Monday close.

Even a full percentage point rise in Japan's discount rate, now at 4.25 per cent, seems unlikely to reverse the dollar's rise because it has been long dominated by the market.

The dollar's rally could press the Japanese central bank to raise the discount rate by between 0.75 and one full percentage point, possibly this week, dealers in Tokyo said today.

A discount rate increase of only half a percentage point could even spur disinflation and yen selling, said Hiroshi Tomimura, dealer at the Yoda Trust and Banking Company.

The market's weakness deepened today after news that an East-West German commission on monetary union favours a one-to-one mark swap rate for East German marks.

Rome Economics Minister Helmut Haussman said the panel, which met today for the last time before Sunday's East German elections, did not want to disadvantage East Germany's economy. "This means a one-for-one conversion," he said.

Khorafi in Abu Dhabi

ABU DHABI, March 13, (Kuna): Kuwait's Minister of Finance Jasssem Al Khorafi today arrived here to take part in the annual two-day meetings of the Arab financial institutions to begin here tomorrow.

Khorafi upon arrival was received by the UAE Minister of State for Finance and Industry Ahmad Al Tayer as well as other officials including Kuwaiti's Charge d'Affaires Khalil Al Abdali.



Hungarian President snakes hands with Sheikh Ali

Bilateral ties to be strengthened

Kuwait's vital role praised

BUDAPEST, March 13, (Kuna): Oil Minister Sheikh Ali Al Khalifa today conferred with President of Hungary Matyas Szarus on bilateral ties and means of promoting them in light of current political and economic changes sweeping that socialist country.

President Szarus, in a statement to Kuna following the meeting, said that present changes and the first free and democratic elections in his country, set for March 25, will contribute to improving bilateral relations.

He indicated that these transformations for democracy will secure continuity of Hungary's fundamental policy of establishing strong and solid relations with the Arab countries.

In this context, the President highlighted Kuwait's "distinguished" role in Hungary-Arab relations, praising the intensive contacts between Kuwait and Budapest.

The Kuwaiti ranking official arrived here late last night on a three-day visit at the head of a

high-level delegation.

Meanwhile, Hungarian Foreign Trade Minister Tamás Beck underscored that Kuwait is considered "a favourable partner" on bilateral co-operation with Hungary in various commercial and economic fields at present time.

Beck affirmed to Sheikh Ali that Hungary, in the meantime, was undertaking political, economic and social reforms, and seeking expansion of co-operation links with all Arab countries.

But, he added, that Kuwait represents the preferable partner to Hungary in the Gulf and Middle East regions because it (Kuwait) was the foremost Arab state that established diplomatic relations with Hungary.

Beck, who visited Kuwait last November, said Sheikh Ali's current visit would avail the two sides the opportunity to complement their earlier talks on various aspects concerning broadening bilateral co-operation in trade and investment spheres, especially in oil and

energy domains.

The signing of the agreement on encouraging and protecting investments by the two countries last November had given momentum to negotiations currently underway to establish a number of new joint ventures, the Hungarian minister noted.

Beck however said there were certain "technical points" that need to be clarified and that was the main purpose of Sheikh Ali's present visit to Hungary.

He said experts from both countries would hold talks in Kuwait next May 14 to discuss a draft agreement on preventing double taxation between Kuwait and Hungary.

The experts, Beck went on, would put the final touches of the draft agreement which is expected to enhance the earlier bilateral accord on investment protection and encouragement.

The Hungarian trade minister asserted that there were good prospects for closer co-operation with Kuwait in all sectors of oil and energy, beside agriculture and industry.

Oteiba sees \$18 to 20 prices as ideal

ABU DHABI, March 13, (Reuters): United Arab Emirates (UAE) Oil Minister Mansour bin Juma Al Oteiba said today that an oil price of \$18 to \$20 per barrel was ideal and he wanted this level to be kept until the end of 1991.

Oteiba also said that if Opec's ministerial monitoring committee, which meets in Vienna next Friday, was to discuss members' quotas, and "if the market allows", the UAE would ask for what he termed a few quotas of over two million barrels per day (BPD).

The UAE's Opec quota for the first quarter of 1990 is 1,050 million BPD.

The minister made his comments in an opening address to a British-sponsored oil industry seminar and to reporters after the meeting.

"Oil prices are fluctuating between \$18 to 20 that is the ideal level which I myself like to see and (would like) maintained for the rest of the year and maybe the next year," he told the seminar organised by more than 70 British firms involved in the oil industry.

"The \$18 level which Opec has fixed as a guiding price has been

achieved and I want to say that we must be very careful when we talk about prices beyond \$18," Oteiba said.

He added this would give the market chance to consolidate and prices might be allowed to rise "to a very reasonable level" after 1991.

He told the seminar the UAE was now producing around two million BPD but could produce at a higher rate.

"But we are totally committed to that level on certain conditions, that other Opec countries should respect their production quotas, otherwise we will feel free to produce at a rate which we feel will serve the interests of our people."

Asked by reporters whether Opec's Vienna meeting should discuss quotas, Oteiba said: "We are flexible and everything depends on the market. If the market is strong then the quota issue should be discussed provided prices remain at \$18 (per barrel)."

"If the quota issue is discussed at the (Vienna) meeting, then the UAE will demand a fair quota."

Asked if such a quota would be more than two million BPD, Oteiba said: "Yes, if the market allows."

WORLD STOCK ROUNDUP

SYDNEY, March 13, (Reuters): A round of selling by overseas investors and local institutions pushed Australia's sharemarket to a weaker close. The All Ordinaries index fell 10.4 pts to 1,540.6.

TOKYO: Stocks dropped sharply to close more than 700 points down, largely due to arbitrageurs heavily unwinding cash index futures positions. The Nikkei index fell 747.66 pts to 22,520.57.

HONG KONG: Stocks ended slightly softer but turnover strengthened ahead of

the release of 1989 HK bank results. The Hang Seng index fell 5.26 to 2,887.62.

SINGAPORE: Share prices closed sharply lower across the board in this trade as sympathy with a 2.5 per cent change in the Nikkei index. The Straits Times index fell 16.38 to 1,565.68.

BOMBAY: Share prices rallied sharply in anticipation of the controversial for industry in the April budget to be announced on March 19, brokers said. The Bombay Stock Exchange index rose 14.14 to

688.08. Tata Steel was up 4.50 at 112.50.

FRANKFURT: Optimism about East German elections and investment opportunities boosted the Dax index 21.4 points to 1,367.48.

ZURICH: Trade centered on industrial shares. The All-Share SPI index lost 1.9 points to 1,101.5.

NEW YORK: Blue chips showed early gains but downside led gains and the rally stalled. At 12:17 GMT the Dow Jones Industrial was down 0.45 at 2,686.49.

Seoul seeks to attract Kuwaiti investors

Korea to relax restrictions

By Jadranka Porter
Arab Times staff

SOUTH KOREA'S leading securities house SaengYong Investment and Securities Co. is seeking to attract Kuwaiti investors to the country's capital market, which is preparing to receive the first direct foreign investment in 1992.

SaengYong has targeted the government-owned 3 Ka, Kuwait Investment Co., Kuwait International Investment Co. and Kuwait Foreign Trading and Contracting Investment Co. All three are already familiar with the Korean market but have no major investments there, said Sung Dong Lee, a SaengYong



Sung Dong Lee
manager now visiting Kuwait. He is offering convertible bonds and bonds with warrants to Kuwaiti investors, who presently have access

to Korea's stock exchange indirectly, through mutual funds. Foreigners who acquire these bonds will be able to convert them into shares next year. This could work to their advantage as only a limited number of shares, between five and 10 per cent of the total, will be available for sale to foreign investors in 1992.

A convertible bond gives its owner the privilege of exchange for other securities of the issuing company at some future date and under prescribed conditions. A warrant is usually issued as a sweetener, to enhance the marketability of the accompanying fixed income securities.

Foreigners considering invest-

ment in Korea have expressed concern about premiums on Korean stock but although Lee said that premiums are now "at a reasonable level" foreigners still pay a higher price than the local investors.

He contends that the Korean Stock Exchange, the 18th largest in the world, will compete with the well-established ones in London, New York, Tokyo and Hong Kong once the Korean capital market liberalisation plan is put into action. He related its growth to the growth potential of Korean economy. "Western economies have peaked out. Japan is now in its zenith and the buoyant Korean economy is following on upward trend," he said.

UAE jumps to third Arab market for US goods

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates, March 13, (AP): The United Arab Emirates last year became the third largest market for US goods among Arab countries, following Saudi Arabia and

Egypt, US Ambassador Edward Walker said today. US exports to UAE in 1989 were \$1.2 billion, he told a press conference. Compared to 1988, when UAE was the fifth largest

Arab market for US goods, UAE imports from the US in 1989 increased by 75 per cent.

"At the same time US manufacturers and suppliers discovered that the UAE is stable,

dynamic, sophisticated and forward looking country which offers attractive opportunities not only for straight export sales but also for investment and joint-ventures," he said.

Inter-Arab trade to be reviewed Arab ministers meet

By Khaled Ahmad

TWENTY-ONE Arab finance ministers will gather today, in Abu Dhabi to discuss highly important issues relating to inter-Arab trade. The Minister of Finance Jasssem Al Khorafi left Kuwait yesterday heading a high level economic delegation to attend the meeting of the Arab Joint Funds and Financial Establishments. The Arab ministers will also discuss the plans of the establishments during the current year, 1990.

The Arab ministers, according to well informed sources, will discuss causes of the sharp drop in the size and value of the inter-Arab trade exchange and the increasing dependence of the Arab world on imported foreign goods. The ministers will discuss the adverse effects this trend has left on the Arab economic growth and the growth of the agricultural and industrial sectors in particular and its effect on the investment rates in Arab countries.

The sources said that the Arab ministers will discuss the proposal of setting up a special fund for promoting trade exchanges between Arab countries with a capital of up to \$500 million.

US, Romania sign aid package

BUCHAREST, March 13, (Reuters): The United States and Romania today signed an \$80 million agricultural aid package, their first agreement since the December revolution.

Under the package, proposed by US Secretary of State James Baker on a brief visit to Bucharest in February, Romania will receive around \$15 million tonnes of food grains and 7,500 tonnes of butter.

It will also receive a 26-year, low interest loan of \$20 million to buy more foodgrains.

The United States has made it clear that this humanitarian aid is provided with the understanding that Romania is dedicating itself to the establishment of democratic institutions and a market economy."

The US Embassy in Bucharest said in a statement.

Riyal deposit rates firm

NICOSIA, March 6, (Reuters): Saudi riyal interbank deposit rates firmed in quiet trade today to reflect firmer dollar interest rates in international markets, dealers said.

Spot interest climbed 1/8 point from Monday to 7-7/8 per cent. Six months firmed 1/16 point to 8-1/4 eight and one year rose 1/8 point to 8-5/8 3/8. However, one and three months were unchanged at 7-7/8 5/8 and 8-1/8 7-7/8, respectively.

Dollar rates opened around 1/16 point firmer in London.

The spot Saudi riyal eased marginally to 3.7501/04 to the dollar from 3.7502/05 on Monday.

Canada host of 23rd International Dairy Congress

More than 5,000 participants from over 50 countries will meet in Montreal October 7 to 12, 1990 for the 23rd International Dairy Congress and Exposition 1990. Delegates will hear over 200 speakers address subjects covering all aspects of the dairy industry from biotechnology to food safety, quality assurance and marketing.

During scientific poster sessions, delegates will discuss the latest research papers and developments.

"This prestigious gathering will provide the opportunity for colleagues from around the world to meet, discuss and share knowledge and experience in all aspects of 'Dairying in a Changing World,' our theme for this first congress to be held in North America," said Mr. Kempton Matte, Chairman of the Organising Committee.

A special international display of products at the Congress will allow delegates to see and discuss new products, packaging and ideas.

Technical tours of the Canadian dairy industry will be available as well as many social activities.

The Congress will be held in conjunction with Exposition 1990 where 150 suppliers will exhibit products and services used by producers, processors, packagers, distributors and retailers involved in the dairy industry.

To receive a registration and programme brochure and to present a poster session, please contact:

Mr. Mohammed Ezzat Jaafar,
Deputy Managing Director,
The Kuwaiti Dairy Dairy Company.
Tel: 4717911, Fax: 4747029
Telex: 23054 DANKUWA KT.

The International Dairy Congress is sponsored by the International Dairy Federation, an International Association of 33 member countries dedicated to the exchange of experience and information in the international dairy field.

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Supervision
Salesmanship
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Executive Assistant
Typing
Technical
Motorcycle Maintenance
Automobile Engineering | BASIC
City & Guilds Basic Mechanical
Engineering
Comprehensive Building
Technical Drawing
Refrigeration & Air Conditioning
Ice Cream Technology
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مكتبة

Conference on major banking and finance

BANKERS from Kuwait have a unique opportunity to participate in a conference on "Gulf Banking and Finance" on March 18 and 19, 1990 at the Kuwait SAS. The speakers include Andrew Cunningham, MEED's specialist on banking and Steve Davies, author of best seller "Excellence in Banking". They will be joined by eminent specialists from Kuwait such as Adnan Al Bahar, general manager of Kuwait Finance House, Dr Taha, director of operations of Inter Arab Investment Guarantee Corporation and the Dr Amal El Tigani, professor in Faculty of Commerce of the Kuwait University.

There will also be presentations by top international companies such as IBM, Reuters, Wang, Computhink etc on products and services useful to banking and finance sectors. These companies will exhibit their products at a private exhibition (free for all bank employees) from 12 noon to 8 pm on March 18th and 19th at the SAS Hotel Tent Foyer.

These stalls are professionally erected by Kuwait Fairs Co. The conference is co-sponsored by the Kuwait SAS Hotel.

In the conference, 13th edition, of Middle East Financial Directory 1990 will be released. In the exhibition, latest books on banking and finance from top international publishers such as McGraw Hill, Butterworth, MacMillan etc will also be displayed.

Also on display will be CD ROM from Bowkers and Whitakers which can help readers locate full details of any bank in the world, knowing only a part of this information such as title or author's name or subject.

Hong Kong bank posts 11pc rise in profit

HONG KONG, March 13, (Reuters): The Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, regarded by bankers as the largest bank in Asia outside Japan, posted an excellent profit for 1989 today but disappointed many stock-market investors.

Despite economic slowdowns in all the bank's major markets net profits in 1989 rose to \$4.77 billion dollars (\$612 million) from 4.3 billion (\$550 million) in 1988, chairman William Purves told shareholders.

But investors who stayed late in the office hoping to see what would be the bank's best-kept secret, the size of the bank's inner reserves, remained in ignorance.

"We are told, but it's not for certain, that by 1992 Britain and Europe will be on full disclosure," Purves told reporters. "They are not yet full disclosure. Swiss and German banks have not moved in 1989 and neither have we."

Financial analysts estimate the bank's reserves anywhere between 10 billion and 45 billion dollars (\$1.3 billion and 5.8 billion) but all admit they are guessing.

"When these international banks do move, I'm sure the bank board will reconsider the position," Purves said.

Share analysts who estimate the bank's current net asset value at \$5.72 dollars (\$4 US cents) a share, forecast this would surge to 11 dollars (\$1.40) if the secret reserves levels were disclosed, boosting the share price in the process.

KUWAIT, March 13, (Kuna): Following are the average KD interest rates of local interbank transactions as reported by participants to Central Bank of Kuwait today.

Period	Rate	Offered
1 month	8.9/16	8.13/16
3 months	8.9/16	8.13/16
6 months	8.9/16	8.13/16
1 year	8.9/16	8.13/16

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3 months	8.9/16	8.13/16
6 months	8.9/16	8.13/16
1 year	8.9/16	8.13/16

Indian rupee 17.300
Sri Lankan rupee 7.430
Pakistani rupee 13.850
Bangladesh taka 8.620
US dollar 2.945
Pound sterling 4.750
UAE dirham 0.8008
Deutsche mark 1.720
Japanese yen 90.1933

W.Germans call for 1-1 currency swap for E.Germans

LEIPZIG, East Germany, March 13, (Reuters): West Germany said today it favoured a one-for-one exchange rate for East German savings when the two Germanys forge currency union.

"We believe that we can't make the East German people worse off with their savings. This means a one-for-one conversion," West German Economics Minister Helmut Haussmann told Reuters at the Leipzig International Trade Fair.

Haussmann declined to say when the currency union, under discussion by an

inter-German commission in East Berlin today, might be achieved. East Germany's State Bank had insisted on a one-for-one exchange rate between the East and West German marks.

Haussmann's remark, the first confirmation that Bonn would back a one-for-one exchange rate, is certain to be welcomed by East Germans who had feared their savings could be wiped out by a rate closer to the black market exchange for about four-to-one.

According to official estimates, there is about 170 billion East German marks

(\$100 billion) in private accounts in the country. Haussmann did not specify whether a proportion of individuals' savings might be frozen for a time.

The East German minister without portfolio, Walter Romberg, told journalists before today's third meeting of the Inter-German Commission on Economic Union that he expected an interim report would be ready by the end of the day.

"We have carried out good preparatory work so that the newly

elected government can take very concrete steps in the very near future," said Romberg, head of the East German delegation.

Most opinion polls put Romberg's Social Democratic Party ahead in the run-up to East Germany's first democratic elections on Sunday.

Party leader Ibrahim Boehme has said he wants the West German mark introduced by July 1 to stop currency speculation undermining the East German economy.

Lothar de Maiziere, head of the Christian Democrats (CDU) — one of three parties in a conservative alliance which the polls put close behind the SPD — said currency union would come rapidly.

"It is only a question of weeks after the election," he said in an interview with the West German newspaper Bild. "Every week costs us 10,000 people whom we need in East Germany," he said, referring to a continuing exodus to West Germany of citizens hoping for better living standards.

The inter-German currency talks will be followed in Bonn on Wednesday by the first meeting of the "two-plus-four" talks covering security issues, involved in uniting two states which belong to opposing political and military blocs.

The talks, called by an East-West meeting of foreign ministers in Ottawa last month, will involve the two German states and the four World War Two allies with special responsibility for Germany — the Soviet Union, the United States, Britain and France.

Bid to ease economic imbalances

Arab nations to launch new fund

ABU DHABI, March 13, (Reuters): Arab nations meet this week to launch a new fund they hope will stimulate trade between each other and help reduce growing regional economic imbalances.

Finance ministers of the 21-nation Arab League and chiefs of five main Arab funds meet in the United Arab Emirates on March 14 and 15 at the Abu Dhabi-based Arab Monetary Fund (AMF).

One of their main tasks will be to approve a \$500-million fund to help halt a worrying slide in inter-Arab commerce, AMF officials said today.

Minimal levels of inter-Arab trade have severely restricted economic growth, and discouraged regional investment in manufacturing and agriculture, Arab economists say.

This has led to increasing over-

reliance on food imports, especially to the poorer Arab countries who cannot afford them, and to rising capital and consumer goods imports from the industrialised world because there are no Arab alternatives.

AMF economist Faris Binagadi estimates that inter-Arab trade is no more than eight per cent of total Arab trade.

During the past year, the Arab world has itself solidified further into three main trade blocs. Each has potential strengths but also major economic weaknesses which could be exacerbated unless they co-operate much more, economists said.

The AMF, which is a kind of Arab International Monetary Fund, is realistic.

"Our financing scheme will not remove all obstacles block-

ing the flow of trade amongst Arab countries," said AMF chairman Osama Jaffar Al Faqih to reporters ahead of the meeting.

Faqih said that high Arab customs tariffs, bureaucratic red tape, blocks on free capital flows, storage, transport, and communications problems all added to the problem.

The new fund still needs \$50 million in contributions from central and commercial banks, and development funds to reach the \$500 million target.

It will give preferential financing to locally-produced inter-Arab exports, excluding oil and gas, and the AMF forecasts it will fund up to \$1 billion per year in extra trade by making Arab goods competitive in price.

Inter-trade between the GCC

states of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the UAE, Bahrain, Oman, and Qatar is particularly low at less than five per cent, largely due to their huge oil exports, and the fact their wealth buys them the best of overseas goods.

The other two blocs are the Arab Co-operation Council (ACC), grouping Iraq, Egypt, Jordan and North Yemen, and the Maghreb Union of Algeria, Tunisia, Mauritania, Morocco and Libya.

Figures derived from the international agencies such as the IMF show just how imbalanced these groupings are. The population of the whole Arab world is around 200 million.

The most obvious problem is how to transfer more investment capital from the wealthy side of the Arab world, which basically means the GCC, to the developing, indebted side.



A share trader stretches out his arms at the end of morning trading at the Tokyo Stock Exchange yesterday as shares fell 444.94 points to 32,923.29 at midday after falling 524.89 points on Monday. (Reuters wirephoto)

Stock index crashes

TOKYO, March 13, (AP): The key index on the Tokyo Stock Exchange continued to fall this afternoon and registered the eighth largest single-day loss in its history, while the US dollar was higher against the Japanese yen.

The 225-share Nikkei stock average lost 747.66 points, or 2.24 per cent, ending the day at 32,620.57. Added to Monday's 624.89-point loss, the Nikkei has lost 1,372.55 points in two days.

The dollar was changing hands at 152.13 yen as of 3:00 pm (0600 GMT). It opened higher at 152.82 yen, up 0.82 yen from Monday's close at 152.00 yen, and ranged between 151.95 yen and 152.88 yen during the afternoon session.

The price of the benchmark No. 119 Japanese government bond plunged to 86.15 points, down 0.34 points from Monday's close at 86.49. Its yield rose from the previous day's 7.24 per cent to 7.31 per cent by 3:00 pm (0600 GMT).

"The loss was because of the yen's fall," said Nishimura Securities analyst Yoshimasa Inoue. He added that investors' speculation over the discount rate hike was largely responsible for the market's poor performance.

Market players have long expected the Central Bank to raise its official discount rate, which now

stands at 4.25 per cent after three hikes last year. Japanese financial markets have been fluctuating nervously because a hike expected after last month's general election has not materialised. Now investors expect the hike — of as much as 1 per cent, according to local news reports — to take place as soon as Bank of Japan Governor Yasuhiro Mieno returns from a trip to Europe Thursday, dealers said.

Local news reports today said Mieno limited the possibility of an imminent hike in the nation's key lending rate to commercial banks.

"In addition, the year-end account settlement is approaching for many investors, especially institutional ones, and they are reluctant to buy now," Inoue said.

The index briefly fell more than 540 points at midmorning in part prompted by computer-aided selling by arbitrageurs, such as Salomon Brothers, for their profit-taking from price gaps between spot and future markets, said Kazuhiko Nomura, a dealer with the New Japan Securities Co.

He said the market's direction would be determined by how many more arbitrage sellings come later in the day.

Analysts have blamed computer-aided large-scale arbitrage for the recent market plunges.

Takeshita meets Bush

WASHINGTON, March 13, (UPI): President Bush met yesterday with former Japanese prime minister Noboru Takeshita in a further sign of stepped-up high-level dialogue driven by escalating trade tensions between their two economic superpowers.

Takeshita, still influential after being driven from office by scandal last year, flew to Washington over the weekend on a private visit coinciding with rising concern over the US-Japan trade imbalance.

Fitzwater said before the meeting that Bush wanted to "emphasize again that the United States needs and wants access to Japanese markets, that we have strong protectionist pressures in the Congress and any help that the former prime minister can give us in relating that message to the people and the government of Japan would be helpful."

The almost \$50 billion Japanese trade surplus with the United States was the focal point of an unusual desert summit last week between Bush and Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu at a swank country club in Rancho Mirage, Calif.

Even as Takeshita and Bush reviewed some of the same issues raised in the recent talks with Kaifu, Commerce Secretary Robert Mosbacher was en route to Tokyo to reinforce the US demand for more open access to Japanese markets.

Before leaving Washington, Mosbacher said he hoped to reach "a clear understanding" on trade issues during three days of meetings with Japanese industrial leaders and government officials, including Kaifu.

The fourth electro exhibition displays hundreds of electricity and electronics appliances and equipments of 26 local companies.

Shares to be auctioned at Bahrain exchange

BAHRAIN, March 13, (Reuters): Shares worth about 271,000 dinars (\$720,000) will be auctioned at the Bahrain Stock Exchange on Thursday to pay off debts owed to Gulf banks, exchange officials said today.

An exchange spokesman said the shares belonging to Bahrain-based United Gulf Bank (UGB), the Bank of Bahrain and Kuwait (BBK), National Import and Export Co and General Trading and Food Co would be sold on the orders of Bahrain's court.

It will be the biggest auction of its kind since the island's trading floor opened last June. Several other auctions also enforced by court rulings against local debtors have been held.

A planned auction of 34.4 million shares for Bahrain International Bank last December was postponed on court order.

Thursday's sale will include four million UGB shares worth around 232,000 dinars (\$617,000) and 43,706 BBK shares totalling 37,000 dinars (\$99,000).

Fourteen shares of General Trading and Food Co and 240 shares of the National Import and Export Company will also be sold in the highest bidder.

Plans to expand ties

UK trade team in Vietnam

BANGKOK, Thailand, March 13, (AP): A delegation of British businessmen is in Vietnam studying the possibility of expanded trade following improvements in the political climate in recent months, a British trade official said today.

The official Vietnam News Agency said Monday that the delegation from 10 British companies, including several with longstanding trade ties with Vietnam, arrived in Hanoi Sunday.

The businessmen had meetings with officials from the Ministry of External Economic Relations and from sectors including banking, energy, natural gas, oil, transport, agriculture, water resources, metallurgy, mining, aquatic products, textiles and import-export, the news agency said.

An official of the Vietnam desk of the British government's Department of Trade and Industry said in Bangkok there was growing interest in Vietnam among British businessmen after an easing of the political climate over the past six to nine months.

Abal-Khalil said Saudi Arabia would provide

He spoke on condition he not be named.

Contacts between Western countries and Vietnam have increased since Vietnam last September completed what it said was the withdrawal of its troops from Cambodia, which it invaded 11 years ago.

However, some recent reports have said some Vietnamese soldiers have returned to help fight off a guerrilla offensive.

British trade with Vietnam is small compared to its trade with other Southeast Asian countries, but the potential for expanded contacts is vast, the British official said.

"With the opening up of Vietnam, companies are seeing opportunities to go in at an early stage," he said.

Some members of the delegation now in Vietnam already had trade contacts, but others are assessing the opportunities and "introducing themselves and hoping to maintain links in the future," he said.

Saudis and Egypt sign trade pact

NICOSIA, March 13, (Reuters): Saudi Arabia and Egypt today signed a broad agreement for economic, investment, trade and technical co-operation.

The official Saudi Press Agency said the agreement was signed in Riyadh by Saudi Finance and Egypt's Economy and Foreign Trade Minister Youssif Mustapha.

A joint Saudi-Egyptian committee began a three-day meeting in Riyadh on Monday to expand bilateral ties.

Abal-Khalil said Saudi Arabia would provide

Egypt with three loans totalling 365 million riyals (\$97 million) to help Cairo finance separate development projects, including a scheme to make the Sinai desert bloom.

SPA said the agreement covered the free transfer of capital, investment guarantees and the exchange of agriculture, animal and other national products and transport facilities.

There were no further details. Cairo and Riyadh are planning to build an eight-kilometre causeway across the narrow entrance of the Gulf of Aqaba to the Sinai Peninsula.

Electro-90

KUWAIT, March 13, (Kuna): Commerce and Industry Ministry Undersecretary Abdullah Hamad Al Hamad patronises on Sunday the inauguration of the week long Electro-90 exhibition at the International Fairs Ground in Mishrif.

The fourth electro exhibition displays hundreds of electricity and electronics appliances and equipments of 26 local companies.

United States fell to \$2.97 billion from \$4.15 billion a year earlier, it said.

Both US and Japanese officials agree that the trade imbalance is gradually falling, but Washington faces election-year pressures from Congress and is seeking faster progress in reducing its deficit with Japan.

Mosbacher was to meet with Kaifu, other government officials, and industry leaders to discuss specific trade issues and promote US exports and investment in Japan before returning to Washington Friday.

The Keidanren called for substantial reforms in Japan's land-use policy, for deregulating and simplifying its retail distribution system and for increased spending on social infrastructure, such as sewers, roads and welfare facilities — all reforms supported by US trade officials in the

structural trade talks.

But the group disagreed with a US demand that Japan's anti-monopoly laws be revised to prevent collusion and other unfair trade practices.

In addition to improving enforcement of the current law, the Keidanren said Japanese corporations should change practices that tend to exclude foreign firms from the Japanese market.

It urged that the reforms be carried out quickly to prevent short-term decisions on protectionist measures in the United States, which would "hurt the foundations of the free-trade system" and damage multilateral trade negotiations.

Kaifu is struggling to show substantive progress in promised economic reforms before early April, when the two countries are to issue an interim report of the structural trade talks.

Bombay Stock Exchange prices (Rs)			
March 13, '90	Fr. Close	Open	Close
ACC	348	349	356
Alcan Chem	—	—	—
Alcan Nils	—	—	—
Alcan P	—	—	—
Ashok Ley	72	70	72
Asia Paint	218.75	221.25	223.75
Atlas Cop	36.50	35.50	37
Auto Corp	50	50	52.50
Nat India	371.43	—	376.51
Bajaj Auto	383.75	383.75	389
Bar Rayon	625	620	677.50
Bombay Share	—	—	—
Burns Phil	181	174	178
CCCL	97	96	99
CEC	80	75	80
Central Bank	3100	3075	3125
CEC Bank	2690	2670	2725
CEC Bank	182.50	180	180
Crane Gr	920	900	920
DCA	14.50	14	15
Deep Pet	31	30.50	31.50
Dunlop	53	52	57
El Holid	61	60	61
ESSE India	673.94	682	688.08
Eskayev	121.25	121.25	121.25
Ester Spg	30.25	30.25	32.25
Food Spl	108.75	108	112.50
Godrej	47.50	47.50	47.50
Gas Poly	43	43.50	39.75
Glindia	92.50	92	94
GNFC	42	42.50	43.50
Grain Corp	107.75	109	111
GE Ship	44.50	44.75	45.50
GSEC	176.25	177.50	183
Guj Alk	81.50	81	82
Guj Heavy	16	15	15.75
Hind Ciba	990	970	1050
Hind Lever	107.50	107.50	108
Hind Motor	21.50	21.50	22
Hindook	1370	1325	217.50
Hoechst	1370	1330	1410
Ingersoll	222.50	215	220
ITC	54	52.50	53.50
Ind Eng	48.50	49	49
Ind Rayon	80.50	80	82.50
Indrol	175	170	172.50
JK Sps	51	51	52.50
Kim Engg	133	135	131.25
Kishor	74	74	74.50
KSB Pumps	202.50	195	200
L & T	59	58.50	59
Lipton	84.50	83	90
Mace Russel	102.50	102.50	100
M&C	107.50	107	109
Mahindra	72.50	72.50	73.75
Mas Share	16.75	16.75	17
Mico	810	820	815
Milford	212.50	205	214.50
Modi	47	47.50	49
MODI Ltd	215	215	217.50
Muk Iron	131	130.50	134
Nal Corp	1100	1100	1170
Nal Org	40.50	40.50	40
Nippona	15	14.75	15.25
Orkay	121	122	120
Tata Oil	420	420	430
Tata Chem	121	121	120
Tata Pow	113	112	114.50
Telex	113	112	114.50
Thapp Agro	108	108.75	112.50
Nitron Corp	137	137	142.50
Van Org	695	690	68.50
Vandri	6010	6010	6010
Volsin	17.50	18	18.50
Wipro	50	50	50
Zenith	57.50	57.50	50
Zuari Agro	57.50	57.50	50

Nikkei stock average: 32,620.57 (747.66)		Volume: 400 mil shs		Yen exchange rate: 152.13	
Name of stock	Cl.	Ch.			
Advantech Corp	5230	-50			
Aisecorp	2000	-60			
Alps Electric	2020	-20			
Amada	1670	-60			
Asahi Chem Ind	995	-15			
Asahi Glass	1790	-25			
C. Itoh Co.	915	-70			
Canon Inc.	1520	-30			
Case Corp.	1480	+10			
Dai Nippon Printing	2000	-60			
Daiichi Sanyaku	2620	-20			
Daiippon Ph	2380	+10			
Daiuhiniku Corp	1960	+120			
Elcat	1970	-40			
Fanuc Ltd.	7940	-90			
Fuji Photo	3900	-60			
Fujitsu Ltd.	1400	-20			
Hitachi Credit	1990	-10			
Hitachi Koki	1980	-60			
Hitachi Ltd.	1500	-30			
Hitachi Metal	1530	-0			
Honda Motor	1600	-20			
Ito-Okada Co	3820	-130			
Kajima Corp.	1930	-50			
Kanagawa Ind	815	-19			
Kobe Cast Iron	3010	-10			
Kokusai Elec	5060	-30			
Komatsu Ltd.	1070	-10			
Kyocera Corp	720	-30			
Matsui	2890	-30			
Matsumichi Ind	3650	-70			
Mit Electric	2000	-60			
Nasdaq Inc.	842	-13			
Mitsubishi Corp	1490	-20			
Mitsubishi Estate	1690	-30			
Mitsubishi H I	964	-26			
Mitsui Bk	2220	-36			
Mizuho Corp	1870	-30			
Mochida Ph	4470	+10			
Mori Seiki Co.	3840	-100			
NEC Corp	3360	-30			
Nikon Corp	1890	-30			
Nippon Shin Co	1380	-30			
Nippon Steel	625	-17			
Nippondenso	2190	-30			
Nissaku Corp	1670	-7			
Numata Sec	2650	-100			
Ogawa Mach	1590	-30			
Ogura K. Co.	1940	-80			
Orix Corp	5600	-100			
Pioneer Elec	6410	-70			
Removal Look Int.	2080	-30			
Sanyo Elec Co.	842	-18			
Sasori Ch. Ltd.	6210	-210			
Shin-Etsu Chem.	1530	-30			
Shindengen Elec	1310	-20			
Sony Corp	7790	-120			
Sunimote Elec Ind.	1490	-40			
Sunimote Motor	700	-14			
Taketai Chemical	1910	-60			
TDK Corp	6010	-60			
Tokio Marine & Fire	1750	-10			
Toyoko Elec Power	4800	-100			
Toyko Electron Ltd	3950	-30			
Toshiba Printing	1880	-70			
Tosay Inc.	830	-30			
Toshiba Corp	1080	-20			
Toyota Motor	2280	-40			
Yamaha Elec	1050	-30			
Yamaha Motor	1050	-30			
Nomura Investment					
Banking (Midwest), Bahrain					

Indian Video Roundup

All at war on the psyche

By Fethima Ahmed
Arab Times staff

"RAVISHANKAR'S pathetic story will move you to tears and you'll sympathise with his plight," Dr Naina tells the police commissioner who has been hunting the dreaded terrorist in K. Bapaiah's *Pyaar Ka Karz*. Where's the romance? And who owes the debt? Well! Perhaps, we are, Bapaiah owes us one — for watching his *Pyaar*.

If it was meant to be an examination of a criminal mind, it fails miserably. If it was supposed to talk of unrequited love, once again, it falls flat on the face. From guitar to guns, in brief, the story of Ravi Shankar. What the debt is and who owes whom is open to question. And so are the not so heroic antics of the fearsome terrorist.

Bapaiah's direction wavers between the probable and the improbable, settling for the bizarre. Thus, viewers can't sympathise with Ravi Shankar's misfortune. Actually, his transformation from a musician to a gun-toting terrorist had emotional potential. Somehow, this does not come through.

Also incomprehensible is the apparent misunderstanding that drives away Ravi Shankar, first into the arms of Neelam and then into the den of Rajgopal. The sub-plot revolves around the comic capers of Kader Khan and Asrani in often exaggerated situations may raise a few cackles. Dharmendra, who plays Shakti, a petty con man, manages to breeze in and out of the film. Credits say he has given a "special appearance." If the film is taken in its totality, all the actors seem to give special appearances, including Mithun Chakraborty who plays Ravi Shankar. Meenakshi Seshadri as Dr Naina

appears and disappears, so does Neelam.

Some may even enjoy watching Mithun-Meenakshi and Mithun-Neelam dance numbers. At least, they divert our attention from the blood-spilling and mindless violence.

Bahurani

Only Utpal Dutti's presence makes N. Chatterjee's Bahurani (daughter-in-law) worth viewing. Watching his expressions change, his eyes roll and his facial feature contort while speaking his lines is an experience in itself. Without Utpal Dutti, Bahurani wouldn't be worth the salt, except perhaps as a paradox of social values.

It's the story of a woman who tries to win her husband's love by pretending to someone he wants her to be. Actually, the husband Amit (Rakesh Roshan) is allergic to villagers. And when his despotic father, Choudhury Saheb (Utpal Dutti) decides to bring the "golden girl" from Nirmal village, Amit can't speak up against his father and marries the girl, only to find an excuse to walk out of the wedding hall.

The rest of the story deals with how the girl, Madhuri disguises herself as Malati to woo her husband. Perhaps, some viewers may find Bahurani's sedate pace a welcome change from the usual blood and gore. But it is not engaging enough to sit through without a break.

CORRIGENDUM: I apologise to readers for inadvertently mentioning Bhanupriya as playing the romantic foil to Amitabh Bachchan in *Agneepath* is last week's column. It was actually another southern actress, Madhavi.

The above movies are by courtesy of Athari Video, Main St, Farwaniya. Tel: 4712900 and Canary Video, Fisheries Bldg, Sharq.



Rekha

Turkish Fashion Show

THE Turkish Embassy in co-operation with the Cavusoglu Folk Dances Troupe of international repute will be holding a 4-day Turkish Festival in Kuwait. The Cavusoglu Group has performed in many cities some of which are Ireland, Hungary, Tunisia, Egypt, Finland, as far east as Thailand and as far west as the United States. In addition to the cultural festival every evening there will be a spectacular Fashion Show of traditional and modern Turkish clothes. Locally, the show is being sponsored by Jashanmal and Partners Ltd. (Davidoff). Highland Springs, Al Shera's International Est. Gulf Air and the Kuwait International Hotel. During this period, a Turkish Carpet and Handicraft Exhibition will also be held. It will start from 16th March at the Kuwait International Hotel.

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

MORNING

- 9.30 Opening and Holy Quran
- 9.40 Sabah Al Kher News
- 9.50 Cartoon Serial
- 10.15 Magazine D'Actualite (repetition)
- 10.30 Shuaa Min Al Madhi: Arabic Serial
- 11.45 Fetaa Wa Saad: Beduin Serial (part 2), starring Rasheed Assaf, Abdul Rahman and Rashi, and Wafa Moosilli
- 12.25 News Summary
- 12.30 Holy Quran and Closedown

EVENING

- 4.00 The Opening and Holy Quran
- 4.15 The World Today via Satellite (Repetition)
- 4.45 Saham Al Fadh: Cartoon Serial
- 5.15 Spencer: Arabic Children Serial
- 5.45 Night Chemists, Airlines and Official Advertisements
- 6.00 Wa Qala Hakoom: Historical Serial

- 6.45 Varieties
- 7.00 Housing and Citizens: Local Variety Programme, Prepared by The National Housing Authority
- 7.45 Islamic Monuments and Arts: Cultural Programme (part 7)
- 8.30 Good Evening and Local News
- 9.00 News In Arabic
- 9.45 The Television Network: Local Variety Programme, Presented and Prepared by Abdul Rahman Al Najjar
- 10.15 Lil Adala Wajh Akhar: Arabic Daily Serial, (part 2)
- 11.15 Al Aish Wel Mihi: Arabic Feature Film, starring Naeema Akel, Saad Abdul Wahab, Hassan Faeq
- 12.45 News Summary
- 12.50 The World Today via Satellite
- 1.15 Holy Quran and Closedown

KTV 2

- 6.00 Opening announcement and Holy Quran
- 6.10 Scooby Doo: A cartoon series for Children

- 6.30 The Professor
- 7.00 International. Outdoorsman. "The Child & The Wonder Of The Sea." Action-packed out-door live-action adventures that circles the globe, captivating the universal family audience...
- 7.30 Growing Pains. "Semper Fidelis." "Boner" falls in his exams and Mike hardly passes. Boner joins the naval forces. Will "Mike" do the same or will he decide to continue his studies...
- 8.00 News in English
- 8.30 Our House
- 9.30 The Science Edition. Advanced technology in distress and emergencies... technology and musical instruments. Allergy and an attempt to find a scientific explanation...
- 10.00 Cine-Club presented by Farouk Abdulaziz "Tootsie" Starring: Dustin Hoffman. A jobless actor believes that an actor is found to act!
- 12.00 News in Brief
- 12.15 Magazine D'Actualite

Sipalsala holds story camp

SIPALSALA a forum for Malayalee literary writers and enthusiasts in Kuwait held a one-day short camp at the Indian Arts Circle, Funaites last week. Dr P.C. Harish, convenor of the forum, in his introductory remarks said, that Sipalsala stands for creating conducive circumstances for creative writing through discussion, study classes and camps on different branches of Malayalam literature. The forum also intends to publish a collection of works written by Kerala workers here.

The highlights of the forenoon session was the presentation of two essays on different aspects of short story writing by Hassan Thiekodi and K.R. Prasad. It followed lively discussions which were controlled by Thomas Chittemham and Kaipattoor Thankachan.

The attraction of the afternoon session was the presentation of twenty short stories by the authors themselves. These were reviewed by P.M. Sudhakaram.

Balan Nambiar, in his concluding remarks appreciated the overwhelming enthusiasm shown by the participants.



P.C. Harish delivering introductory speech.



Audience

prepare Indonesian specialties in front of you. **JAZZ NIGHT:** Every Thursday at La Brasserie — Enjoy New Orleans atmosphere with jazz and seafood specialties. **ORIENTAL BUFFET LUNCH:** Every Friday at La Brasserie — Enjoy a typical Oriental buffet lunch with Oriental organist.

SPORTS

Ahmed kart racing THIS Friday sees the highlight of the racing season with the holding of the prestigious Middle East Kart Championship.

This year we have a truly international event with some of karting's top drivers coming from UK, Austria, Brunel, Cyprus and Dubai as well as our own drivers who hail from UK, USA, Canada, Austria and Lebanon. Some of the world's fastest equipment will be in use with speeds of up to 150 kph down the straight.

Racing starts at 12 noon but come early to get a seat in the stands.

There is the usual hot foods, sandwiches and drinks from the snack bar.

Winston Bridge Tournament The SAS Bridge Club will hold a mixed pair tournament

on Friday, 16th March at 2:00 p.m. at SAS Hotel.

Kuwait Nomads R.F.C.

THIS weekend sees the traditional Kent Cup fixture played between England and Ireland. There will be a preliminary exhibition match by the minirugby section on Friday at 12.00 noon. This will be followed by the main event at 12.30 pm England to be captained by A. Winfield. Ireland by J. "That's me" McDevitt.

NIGHT CHEMIST

Kuwait City Al Alameya Pharmacy Fahd Al Salem St. Al Sharq Pharmacy Souk Al Safat **Hawalli and Nagra** Al Andalus Pharmacy Tunis St. **Salmiya and Rumelthiya** Dinar Pharmacy Amman St. **Fahad and Ahmed** Burgan Pharmacy Souk Al Sabah **Jleeb Al Shuyouth** Al Madina Pharmacy Block 2. **Jleeb** Al Nour Pharmacy Matafi St.

CINEMA

Al Andalus Saigon
Al Salmiyah Cry Freedom
Al Hamra Deadly Illusion
Drive-in Arabic film
Al Firdous Hum Bhi Insaan Hain
Fahad Open Arabic film
Al Jahra Play Dead
Granada Arabic film
Sulabikhat Chattanooga Choo Choo
Jleeb The Rescue
Ahmed Drive-in Arabic film

PRAYERS

Fajr	4.40 am
Zohr	11.57
Asr	3.22 pm
Maghreb	5.56
Isha	7.12

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Sultan Gallery INDIAN artist Shamima Farid is showing a collection of her latest works at the Sultan Gallery, near Rolls Royce showroom. A wide selection of subjects are featured in the paintings of the artist, who has exhibited widely in Kuwait and overseas. However, this is Shamima's first solo-exhibition in Kuwait. Open daily from 9 am to 1 pm and 4 to 8 pm.

Watercolours of Arabia Recent watercolours by Patricia Millns on exhibition at the studio, the Tareq Rajah Museum, Jabriya. Saturday thru Thursday 9.30 to 12 and 4.30 to 8 pm, from March 6 to 20, 1990. Tel: 5315397 or 5318060.

SOCIAL

Shakespeare's Macbeth THE London Shakespeare Group, who have already received rave reviews for their performance of Macbeth in Bahrain, Doha, Muscat and the Emirates, will perform at the Kuwait English School, Salwa on March 21 and 22, 1990 at 8 pm and on March 23, 1990 at 6 pm. The cast includes professional actors and actresses with classical backgrounds, who have appeared at the London's prestigious National Theatre, various West End theatres, television and radio. All seats are numbered, and can be reserved by ringing 5740256/7, 5625316, 5718143 or 5731782.

Summer Affair '90 THE Weekend Club will host their traditional "Summer Affair" on the first day of Eid Al Fitr (April 26) at the Regency Palace Hotel. Watch or participate in the selection and crowning of the 1990 Summer Queen, join in a Live Contest, watch a scintillating display of "Lambada" or simply let your feet loose to the music of Top Ranks and Perfect Strangers. Gala buffet, loads of prizes and most important have a good time. For reservations call 4315425, 5741380 or 4890566.

Kuwait Little Theatre KUWAIT Little Theatre presents "Oh Clarence", a comedy by John Chapman, adapted from the books of P.G. Wodehouse. Gala Night is on March 19, 1990, at 7.30 pm with other performances on March 20, 21 and 22 at 8.00 pm. Tickets can be booked by phoning 3919759.

Jazz Concert THE Kuwait Happy Times Jazz Orchestra in concert playing Jazz from Miller to Modern. Hear great Jazz by Kuwait's only 15 pieces "Big Band." March 13, 14 at 7.30 pm in the Kuwait English School. Call 5334912 or 5314107 for ticket information.

ASSOCIATION of Pakistani Professionals and Businessmen (Approb) is holding a seminar to commemorate the Golden Jubilee of Pakistan Resolution. Javed Iqbal, the son of the renowned Muslim philosopher and poet, Allama Mohammad Iqbal and retired justice of Pakistan Supreme Court will preside over the seminar at Sheraton Hotel on March 25th.

Dr. Iqbal will read a research paper on "The struggle to obtain a separate Muslim homeland between Allama Iqbal's Allahabad address of 1930 and the Resolution of Pakistan in 1940." Mrs. Iqbal, a law graduate from the Harvard University and law professor at the University of Punjab, will speak on "the role of Muslim women in society as envisaged by Jinnah and Iqbal." A number of research papers on the Pakistan movement and the ideology of Pakistan will also be read at the seminar to be attended by diplomats and prominent personalities.

Approb will also hold an evening with Dr. Iqbal and his wife on March 24th at the residence of Iqbal Latif to acquaint Pakistani children in Kuwait about the ideology of Pakistan. Dr. Iqbal will meet the Pakistani community at the Pakistan embassy on March 26. For further details, contact Approb: 2425315 Fax: 5323751.

Badesik Picnic Bangladesh Diploma Engineers' Society in Kuwait (Badesik) has organised its annual picnic to be held in Mangaf family beach on March 23. The events included the prize distribution of recently completed indoor games and the children sports to be played on the spot. Bangladesh Ambassador to Kuwait K.M. Shehahuddin will be the chief guest.

All Badesik member's are requested to contact general secretary Khalilur Rahman on tele 4330025 for more details. **PHOTOGRAPHY classes** by Anne Eid beginning Saturday, March 17, in Surra. Call: Anne - 2426135.

Holi — Festival of Colours

THE IAC is celebrating the festival of colours to commemorate the coming of Spring on Thurs 22nd March at Funaites with a suitable programme. Members and their guests are requested to contact the IAC office (3904817), Sharma (2644863), Raman (3903879), Mathews (4343329), Srivastava (4898162) or Munshi (2423740) for details and passes. Because of limitations, passes are available on first-come-first-serve basis.

Bangladesh get-together A NUMBER of Bangladeshi families will hold a spring get-together at the Rawda Park, Damascus Street on March 23. The day-long programme, which starts at 8 am, will include children's games, ladies and gents games and bingo. For details, contact telephone 3725312, 4315352, 4715734, or 3713923.

Ladies International League of Kuwait upcoming events L.I.L. Desert Picnic on Friday, March 23, 1990. Members and their guests. For further information and tickets please contact Barbara on 5325131. Deadline for tickets is March 17.

Konkani non-stop show A Konkani non-stop show entitled Kotti Ant Sontos (Hardships & Happiness), written and directed by Epa de Utoia, organised by Utoia Lourdes Boys will be staged on July 6, 1990 at 3.30 pm. Venue: Labour Union Hall, Maidan Hawalli.

For more information contact 4817857. **British Council** Children's Books of the Year 1989 Exhibition: March 10-22 at the gallery. An exhibition of award-winning British published books arranged by The British Council in association with the Kuwait Bookshops Co. Ltd. Orders of books on display may be ordered through the Kuwait Bookshops which will also offer other British-published books at special prices.

Wednesday, March 14, 6.00 pm: Film showing. The Worst Witch — Film fantasy adapted from the children's book "The Worst Witch" by Jill Murphy. It is the magical tale of a school for witches where things have a habit of going slightly awry. 70 min.

Thursday, March 15, 10.30 am: Story telling by a professional story teller. Please book seats by calling 2515512, 2533204, 2533227.

Ninth Kuwait gold & jewellery exhibition

NINTH Kuwait gold and jewellery exhibition is being held at the Grand Ballroom of Kuwait Sheraton Hotel. Al Rujiah Media International, which organised the same successfully is organising it second time. Ten famous Kuwaiti jewellers are going to display their latest and best designs.

The exhibition will continue up to March 15, 1990. It will be open for public from 9.30 am to 1 pm and from 4.30 to 8 pm.

Contact THE next meeting of Contact, the ladies information group, will be held at Messilah Beach Hotel, 10 am, on Saturday, March 17. Newcomers particularly welcome. For further details tel. 3720197; 4874513; 5388105.

Daniella Desert Rally The annual family rally for Danes will take place on Friday, March 23. For registration, please call Henrik — Tel: 3726589/92 ext. 246 before Wednesday, March 14.

HOTELS

Kuwait International Hotel TURKISH Fashion Show: In addition to traditional cuisine there will be a handicraft and carpet exhibition, folk dances, folk music. Gala buffet dinner with an elaborate fashion show and cultural evening on March 16 and 19. Turkish set menu and a special fashion show on March 17 and 18, in the Falaka Restaurant. Tickets at: 2530000 ext. 4010.

Bella Italia: There is a new experience in Italian style dining every evening at La Palma Restaurant from 12 to March 21. Specially flown in for the occasion, chefs Manuel and Roberto Ruppelt will present an unlimited selection of pasta, Mediterranean seafood and desserts. Bellissimo! One guest complimentary for each group of 6 persons. Telephone: 2530000 ext. 8166.

Messilah Beach Hotel Messilah Beach Hotel is promoting an evening of seafood specialties every Wednesday evening at 7 pm in Al Mubarakiah Restaurant.

Bits n' Pieces An interesting 8 week course in patchwork and quilting techniques. For details contact Tel. 5634663.

LEISURE

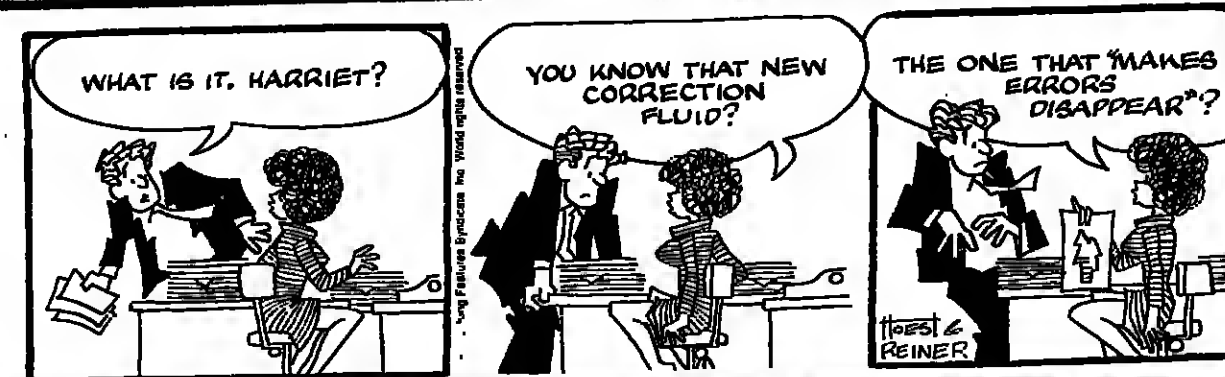
BLONDIE By Dean Young & Stan Drake



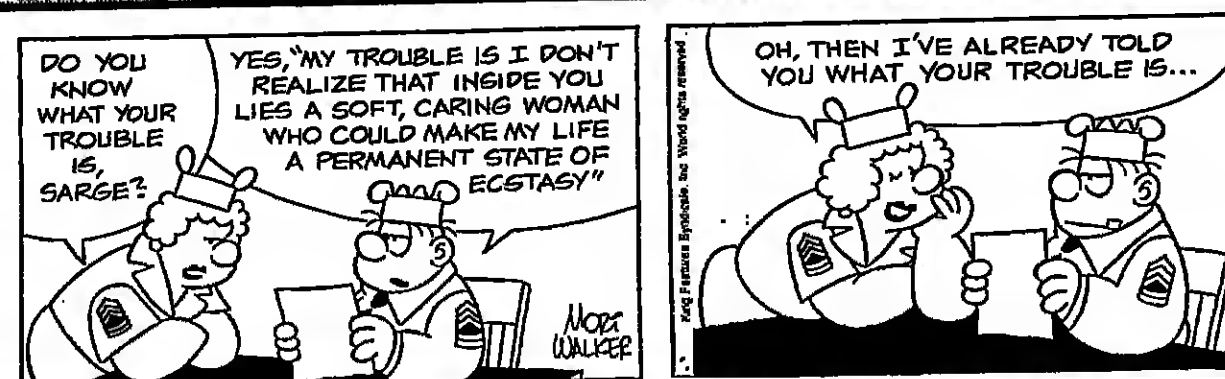
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE By Dick Brown



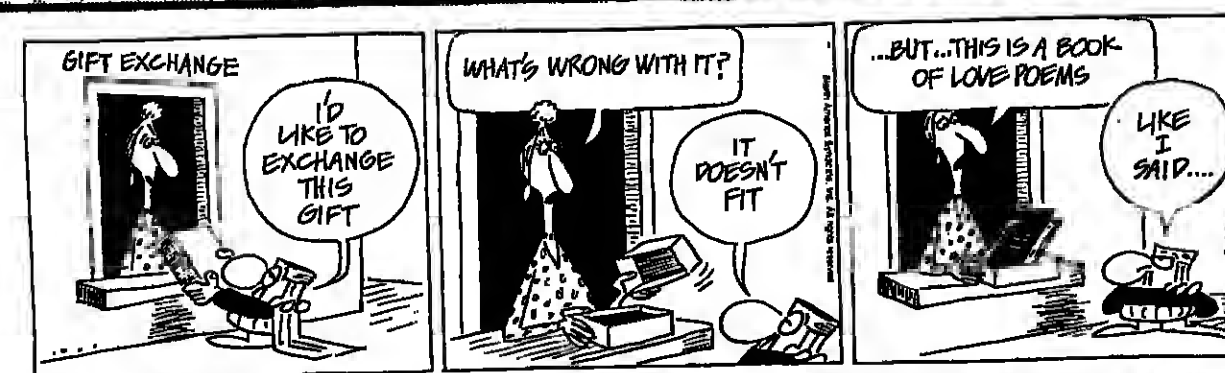
AGATHA CRUMM By Billings



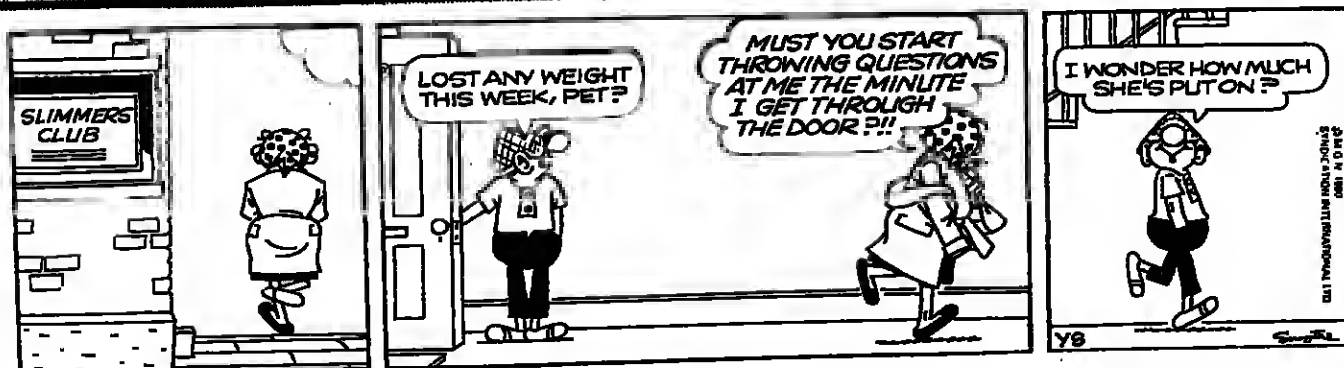
BEETLE BAILEY



THE WIZARD OF ID By Brent Parker & Johnny Hart



ANDY CAPE



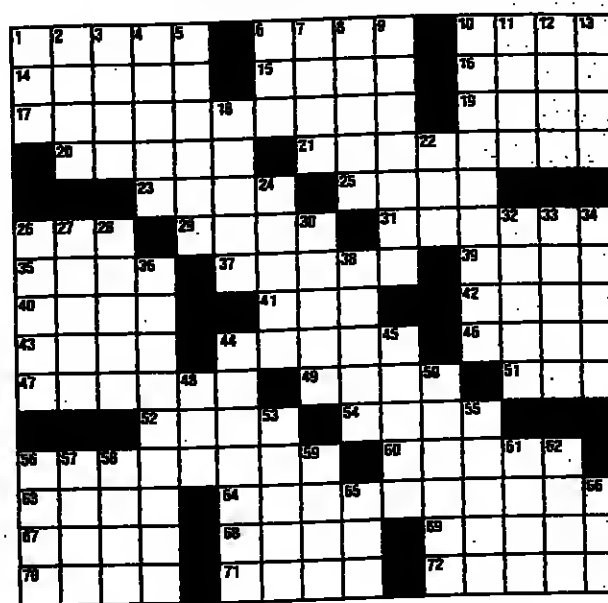
B.C. By Johnny Hart



HE-MAN By G. F. Johnson & J. Shull



TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- 1 Lukewarm
 - 6 Jason's craft
 - 10 Panhandles
 - 14 Sports palace
 - 15 Star in Cetus
 - 18 Hipbones
 - 17 Pirate flag
 - 19 A son of Jacob
 - 20 Union unit
 - 21 Forgave
 - 23 Actress Anna May
 - 25 "David Copperfield" character
 - 26 Lattice variety
 - 29 Tiber feeder
 - 31 Sea or islands
 - 35 Midianite defeated by Gideon
 - 37 Chuck
 - 39 Frogner Park locale
 - 40 Actor O'Shea
 - 41 — Mateo, Calif.
 - 42 King of the Huns
 - 43 Grant's
 - 44 Malice
 - 46 Certain socials
 - 47 Maka possible
 - 49 The transept crosses it
 - 51 Bakery order
 - 52 Egg part
 - 54 Ashan
 - 58 Put together
 - 60 Type of orange
 - 63 Jai follower
 - 64 Tied
 - 67 A Sprat's preference
 - 68 Kitchen staple
 - 69 Rust
 - 70 Lichen
 - 71 Aloof one
 - 72 Lieu
- DOWN**
- 1 — Mahal
 - 2 Piccadilly Circus sight
 - 3 Trapper's prize
 - 4 Relative by marriage
 - 5 Ohio city
 - 6 Latin I word
 - 7 Latvian port
 - 8 Diving bird
 - 9 Rower
 - 10 Mala animal
 - 11 Geographical abbr.
 - 12 Be generous
 - 13 Uttered
 - 18 Extend a subscription
 - 22 Violinist Bull
 - 24 Understand
 - 26 French nobleman
 - 27 Hunter in the sky
 - 28 Historic Alabama town
 - 30 Bis!
 - 32 Organic salt
 - 33 Pacify
 - 34 Cacophony
 - 36 Coif items
 - 38 Ready for use
 - 44 "Pink Panther" Peter
 - 45 Dale or Maurice
 - 48 Avocat's specialty
 - 50 Rouses spirits
 - 53 Oscar-winner Kline
 - 55 Turn inside out
 - 58 Pre-storm condition
 - 57 Table spread
 - 58 "Serpico" author Peter
 - 59 Art —
 - 61 Bacchanalian cry
 - 62 Mother of Castor
 - 65 Bird's beak
 - 66 Actor Beatty

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

MAJAM IDEA TALL
ABATE SLAP ELLI
TUDOR LIRA LINT
TONGUE IN CHEEK
FEAR HOG
DIDS REST EVENS
EROS ODES ENACT
MOUTH OF THE RIVER
OSTER TOOL CANE
SHERD NEIL LEE
PAR HAG
NDNEOFYDURLIP
LIVE NEAP GAVEL
ACES ELLI ERATO
PENS STEIN RENEW

GOBEN BRIDGE

WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

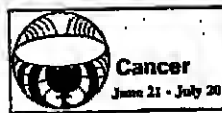
- Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:**
♠AQ108 ♥8 ♦AQJ98 ♣Q95
Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with one heart. What action do you take?
- Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:**
♠AQ108 ♥8 ♦AQJ98 ♣Q95
The bidding has proceeded:
East South West North
1 ♥ Dbl Pass 1 NT
Pass ?
What action do you take?
- Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:**
♠AQ108 ♥8 ♦AQJ98 ♣Q95
The bidding has proceeded:
East South West North
1 ♥ Dbl Pass 1 NT
Pass 2 ♦ Pass 3 ♦
Pass ?
What action do you take?
- Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:**
♠K ♥Q6 ♦KJ1063 ♣10762
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ 2 ♠ ?
What action do you take?
- Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:**
♠K ♥Q6 ♦KJ1063 ♣10762
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ 2 ♠ Pass 1 NT
Dbl Pass ?
What action do you take?
- Q.6—As South, vulnerable, you hold:**
♠2 ♥Q65 ♦QJ96 ♣A9742
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What action do you take?



YOUR STARS



Aries
March 21 - April 20
You should outallow yourself to be deceived by promises of easy money. In no instances are a little mixed but you will be able to strike the right balance if you make just a little effort. Your lucky numbers are 4 and 29. No need to be despondent. Be more yourself.



Cancer
June 21 - July 20
You will not be able to make as much as you had hoped. However just keep at it and you will ultimately reach the end you had aspired to. Avoid attempting to do too much all at once. Be less suspicious.



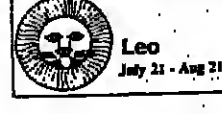
Libra
Sept 23 - Oct 23
You will be mystified by something that keeps going wrong. Just read your instruction book again and all will be well. Make sure you are not doing the same thing twice over. Be sincere.



Capricorn
Dec 21 - Jan 19
You will tend to feel rather less and will have to supply all the will power you can muster. However it will be worth your while to do so. Try and strike a better balance between work and leisure. Be tactful.



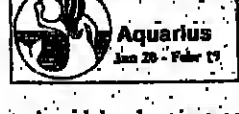
Taurus
April 21 - May 20
Not everything is to your liking so concentrate on what is. However do not ignore facts even though they might be unpleasant. Do not attempt to do more than one thing at a time. Be less extravagant.



Leo
July 21 - Aug 21
Do not allow yourself to become involved in what does not really concern you. Look out for mistakes you are more liable to make them. Listen carefully to what others are saying. Be more reliable.



Scorpio
Oct 23 - Nov 22
Something you had been fearing might happen will not. And something you hoped would will not happen either. You should try to find a happy medium rather than going to extremes. Be inventive.



Aquarius
Jan 20 - Feb 19
Avoid loud noises and refrain from being noisy yourself, too. Pay a little more attention to detail but do not become bogged down in it. You should not take too much of anything, for granted just now. Be moderate.



Gemini
May 21 - June 20
You should not keep others waiting even though you might yourself be kept waiting. Something you had feared might will not now happen. Have just a little more faith in yourself. Be considerate.



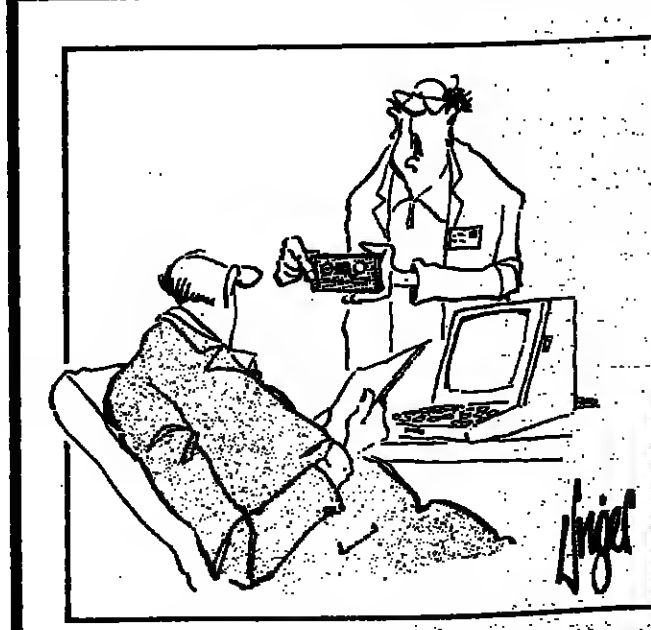
Virgo
Aug 23 - Sept 22
You will not be able to make as rapid progress as you had hoped. However do not allow that to discourage you just keep going. You will have a rather unpleasant surprise, but a pleasant one is to come. Be generous.



Sagittarius
Nov 23 - Dec 22
You will have to spend more money than you had first intended. However you will find it possible to make economies in other respects. Make sure you do not do anything that would be injurious to your health. Be tolerant.



Pisces
Feb 20 - March 20
Something you did some time ago will prove to be even more right now than at the time. Make sure you do not keep other waiting for something you said you would do for them. Do not let a setback get you down just carry on and all will be well in the end.



MARKET PLACE

WANTED

LADIES, I need your old clothes! I pay cash for your old clothes you do not want. For details call 2633756, 9 am - 1 pm, 4 - 9:30 pm.

SPORTS



Fernando (right) receives the trophy.



The winners with tournament officials.

Lanka Colts clinch Bawa Shield

Ramzan hammers BKME for 89



Ramzan: 89 not out

LANKA COLTS (Trico) comfortably defeated BKME by 8 wickets in the finals of the Hubara Knock-out Cup 'A' to annex the Bawa Shield at the Ahmadi cricket grounds earlier this week.

Winning the toss and electing to bat, BKME's hopes of setting the opposition their customary target of 220 runs never materialised, as the Colts opening bowlers Nalaka and Solomonsz kept pegging on the line and length to restrict the normally free scoring Ashfaq and

Saleem to an average of under 4 runs an over in the first 15 overs.

With Saleem out for 4 and Ronnie Sr brilliantly caught by a diving Hiran for 13, it was left to Ashfaq with a restricted but invaluable 61, Sethi with a gallant 25 and James with an unbeaten 10 runs to add respectability to a BKME total of 167 for 6 off 30 overs.

For the Colts the wickets were shared between Ralph, Solomonsz and Lal with Nalaka although wicketless bowling economically con-

coding only 20 runs in his 7 overs.

Target

The Colts openers Nalaka and Ramzan set about the target with a calculated and positive approach to post an opening stand of 43 runs in 7 overs when Nalaka was caught by Ram Mohan off Saleem for 19.

Chris and Ramzan ensured the Colts were always ahead of the required run rate with a partnership of 46 runs to take the Colts total to 90 in 17 overs, when Chris was bowled by Ayub for an

useful knock of 25 runs.

The salient feature of the match was undoubtedly the brilliant stylish unbeaten 89 by young Ramzan Sharifudeen who was well supported by the aggressive Senaka Perera who scored a power packed 33 not out, to take the Colts home with 2 overs to spare.

At the end of the game, the Hubara president John McConville presented the Bawa Shield to a beaming Lanka Colts skipper Hiran Fernando to the cheers of his team-mates and supporters.

Unity rout Pak XI for final

UNITY romped into the finals of the Al Mulla Mitsubishi Tourney defeating Pak XI by 3 goals to nil at the Ahmadi Grounds. Unity will now meet Al Hilal in the final, scheduled for March 23.

The over-confident Unity players were given a hard time by the determined Pak players and Pak goalkeeper Gulzar saved four definite goals to keep Unity's lead to only one goal at half time. Unity's goal came of a penalty stroke, which was awarded when Liaqat, who was about to score was fouled by a Pak defender. Skipper Afriz Lopez converted the resultant penalty stroke.

Having been given a fright, Unity settled down and completely dominated the remainder of the game. As a matter of formality, Unity completed the rout with goals from Iftikhar and Amir Jr.

Flying Arrows goalkeeper Isaac excelled under the bar during the tie-breaker, bringing no fewer than four saves and ensuring Flying Arrows a place in the Champions Trophy finals.

The exciting game played a fast pace, was lively and entertaining one. Though Flying Arrows held a slight edge, both teams raided the rival citadel but could not encash on the moves to take the upper hand. Sunil for Flying Arrows and Sohail for Al Hilal were outstanding in the midfield.

Since normal and extra time did not produce a result the tie breaker rule was applied. Martin, Trevor and Sunil scored for Flying Arrows whilst only Sohail converted for Al Hilal.

Cosmos entered the semifinals of the Kuwait Independents Trophy, defeating Kuwait Independents Gold by a solitary goal. The all-important goal was scored by Xavier. Xavier received the ball in the midfield and drilled past an array of defenders to beat goalkeeper Tony from an acute angle.

Games scheduled for Friday, March 16 are the semifinals of the Kuwait Independents Trophy: 2.30 pm — Al Hilal vs Flying Arrows; 3.30 pm Kwt Cosmos vs Unity.

Fakhri score easy victory

FAKHRI Cricket Club beat Hyderabad Cricket Club by 40 runs at the Kuna Ground on Friday.

FCC, batting first, scored 171 for the loss of six wickets in their 25 allotted overs. Yusuf was the top scorer with 47 while Shamun hit 42, Nuruddin 31 and Manman 20.

HCC found the going tough and were all out for 131 runs. Salim was the top scorer with 33 while Mustafa hit 22, Fayyaz 15, and Musdik 13.

Sufee Gheewala was the most successful bowler for Fakhri Cricket Club with three wickets in only four overs. Nuruddin took two wickets while Shamun, Hakim, Yusuf and Asghar got one each.



Chung (right) receives his prize from Kenneth Smith (centra).

Chung takes top spot

K.H. Chung, the coach of the Kuwait national table tennis team, overcame the elements to win the golf competition held on Friday at the Hunting and Equestrian Golf Club.

The annual competition was hosted by incumbent club captain, Kenneth Smith, who provided all the prizes and luncheon.

Sixty-four golfers were in contention for the prizes. Many experienced difficulties putting on slick greens made faster by persistent gale-force wind. Scoring was in the stableford system. Despite the conditions, K.H. Chung (7) played a steady round carding 35 points to win the best overall prize for men. While the leading lady winner was Kate Marshall who carded a modest 26 points.

Other divisional winners were: Pietre Van Thiel with 33 points, winning division A.

Division B was won by H.R. Jang with 33 points. Division C Winner was Kap. K. Lee also with 33 points.

In side competition Anwar Siddiqi came nearest to the pin on two shots on the par-4 sixteenth. While K.L. Lee won nearest to the pin on the par-3 fifth.

Prize for best nine holes was won by Hillaal Saleh who carded 26 points. Aurolin Brero was second with 19 points.



Kate Marshall (right) collects her award.

Manjre slams unbeaten 37

IN the recently concluded Gulf Bank cricket finals between Starlite and Unity at Ahmadi, the performance of Ilyas Manjre of Gulf Bank was erroneously omitted in the match report submitted by Unity Cricketers, the organisers of the event.

Manjre came to the wickets when Starlite were in danger of defeat, having lost 7 wickets for

187 and trailing behind by 60 runs. Batting lower down the order Manjre with sound technique played a sheet anchor, innings of 37 not out (inclusive of 4 boundaries) and was solely responsible for taking Starlite to victory. He was also involved in a useful partnership of 29 runs with Sohail (12) and Starlite winning by one wicket.

D'Souza slams Lucky Star for unbeaten 55

SKYLARK C.C. defeated Lucky Star C.C. in the Gulf Cricket League match played at the GCL grounds.

Skyark halted after skipper Archie Meneses won the toss and scored 152 runs for the loss of seven wickets in 26 overs. Muzamil and Victor Martis played with responsibility, adding 40 runs for the 3rd wicket. It was Philip D'Souza who punished the Lucky Star bowlers by hitting the ball all around the field, well supported by Sudhakar Shetty.

Philip remained unbeaten on 55, which included 6 boundaries. Other contributors were Victor Martis 27, Muzamil 21 and Sudhakar 18. The wicket takers for Lucky Star were Imtiaz 2 for 14, Iftikhar 2 for 22, Saleem and Anwar one each.

Lucky Star C.C. started badly, losing 5 wickets for 33 runs. But Imtiaz stood against all odds scoring 54 runs, supported by Haq 12, Abid 12 and Tariq 10. They managed only 122 runs in 26 overs for the loss of 8 wickets.

For Skylark, captain Archie bowled well taking 3 for 27, Victor D'Souza took 2 for 29 while Victor Martis, Winston, Philip got one wicket each.

Kifco thrash Capri for Pirelli Trophy

KIFCO Cricket Club added another feather in their cap when they defeated Capri by eight wickets to win the Pirelli Trophy at KCL ground earlier this week.

Capri, after winning the toss opted to bat and were given an ideal start of 66 runs in 11 overs by Adnan and Raju. They both played aggressively and showed little respect for all the bowlers and scored at will.

Raju, the more dominant of the two, was first to go when he was unfortunately run out after scoring 38 runs, which included five well struck fours.

Lewis joined Adnan and both, mixing caution with aggression, took the score to 108, when Adnan was deceived by Amin with a well flighted delivery and scooped a catch to Arshad Shams. Adnan's contribution was 45 runs and he hit three fours.

After the departure of Lewis who scored 34 runs, the middle order collapsed miserably against Aqueel Ashraf who bowled with perfect time and length giving no chance to the batsman to get on top of his bowling. At one stage Capri were tottering at 196 for eight in the 38th over. Then Khalid and Nareesh joined together and playing entertaining cricket, scored 50 runs for the unbroken ninth wicket partnership to give some respectability to their total.

At the end of allotted 45 overs, Capri managed to score 245 runs with Khalid and Nareesh unbeaten on 37



Mansoor (right) receives the winner's trophy.

and 14 runs respectively. Bittu (111, Tauseef (20) and Irfan (17) were the only other batsmen who could get into double figures.

For Kifco, Aqueel Ashraf was the pick of the bowlers who took three wickets after giving away 35 runs in his full quota of nine overs. Mansoor Khan, Shabid Butt, Amin and Rafique Butt were the other successful bowlers, each claiming one scalp.

Kifco, facing a modest total by their standards, opened with Arshad Shams and Naser and were not separated before putting a 146 runs

on the board for the opening partnership. Arshad Shams was the man out when Bittu Singh took a running catch at extra cover off Lewis.

Arshad scored 74 runs and hit four boundaries.

Pervaiz Aslam played a cautious innings and scored 41 runs before mistiming a shot and was caught off Naveed. He hit a grand six and four bullet-line fours. Naser, playing his usual sheet anchor role completed his century before S.P. Khan hit the winning boundary to overtake Capri's total in the 39th over.

Naser's unbeaten 107 included five hits to the fence. For Capri, Lewis and Naveed were the only successful bowlers with one wicket each.

At the end of the match both teams were introduced to G.P. Nicholson, area manager of Pirelli Construction Company. He presented the trophy to Mansoor Khan, captain of Kifco and distributed individual prizes among all the players.

Naser was adjudged Man Of The Match and best bowler prizes went to Aqueel Ashraf for Kifco and Lewis for Capri.

PROFILES OF TEAMS PLAYING IN THE KUWAIT PINOY BASKETBALL LEAGUE

KHC-Bayan

THE KHC-Bayan (Kuwait Hotels Co.) basketball team is composed of Santiago Ortega, Jesus Tangpus, Alvin Guinto, Eric Zagala, Homer Maquesias, Carlo Jose, Romulo Camacho, Ernesto Soliman, Alexander Flores, Ramil Rosales, Abel Lising, Enrico Ramirez, Renato Ong, Ramon Carlos, Ferdinand Abubo, Victor Diaz (trainer), Ed Amores (coach), Billy Marquez (Board of Governors representative), Danny Tumbagahon (asst. team manager), David Brooks (team manager) and Ms Maria Corazon C. Japitana (team muse).

Team muse — Maria Corazon C. Japitana is a 24-year-old petite lass from Negros Occidental. She stands 146.5 cms and weighs 102.0 lbs. She is still single, and has been in Kuwait for almost three years. She works as a staff nurse at the Al Salam Hospital and regards volleyball, reading magazines and books as her other interests. She is a BSN graduate of Colegio de San Agustin-Bacolod, Class '86.

Team manager — David Brooks (one of the most active team managers the Pinoy basketball fans have ever seen) is a hotel service manager of Kuwait Hotels Co. — KHC Bayan. He is 30 years old, and was born in the United Kingdom. He has been in Kuwait for almost 11 years, and he believes in the goals and objectives of the KPBL and its officers. He takes pride in managing the KHC-Bayan basketball 5 as all of its members, with the exception of the team muse, are all KHC employees.

Danny Tumbagahon is the asst. team manager of this KHC-5. He is 33 years old and hails from Sta. Fe, Romblon. He stands 5'6" and weighs 160 lbs. He has been in Kuwait for the past three years and works for KHC-Bayan as a head-waiter. Next to basketball, he fancies swimming.

Billy Marquez is the team's representative to the Board of Governors. Billy is a supervisor



The KHC-Bayan basketball team.

who hails from Batangas. He is 37 years old, stands 5'7" and weighs 140 lbs. He has been in Kuwait for the past three years and loves lawn tennis and bowling among others. This commerce degree holder says KHC employees are very happy to participate in the KPBL cause it is a real basketball tournament.

Ed Amores is the coach of KHC-5. Ed hails from Lian, Batangas and is 34 years old. He has been in Kuwait for almost three years now and hopes that his team could make it to the semifinals.

Trainer Victor Diaz is 36 years old and hails from Manila. This foreman who stands 5'5-1/2" and weighs 135 lbs, regards basketball as his best loved sport and loves to jog in his spare time.

Santiago Ortega, Mr X as he is called for his showmanship in shooting his free-throws (crossing 1 foot over the other) stands 6'4", and weighs 150 lbs. This bachelor is 30 years of age, and a new recruit of team manager (David Brooks) from Quezon

City. He is a BSc. graduate-major in management of the Far Eastern University, Class '83 and was a member of the FEU Varsity basketball team from 1977-1982. Ortega plays the forward-centre for his team and is also the team captain.

Jesus Tangpus is 25 years old, stands 5'10", weighs 185 lbs and plays the forward and guard positions. He is a bachelor from Pasig, and regards table tennis as his next loved sport.

Alvin Guinto stands 5'8" and hails from Gumaca, Quezon. He is 24 years old, a bachelor, and has been with KHC-Bayan for the past 2 years. He resides in Dian St, Makati.

Eric Zagala is the other slotman of the KHC 5. Eric is 23 years old, stands 6'1", weighs 69 kgs and hails from Manila. He is also a bachelor and next to basketball, he is fond of darts, volleyball, and swimming. He has played in the MMUCA 86-87 tournament for the NCBA 5.

Homer Maquesias plays the guard-forward position. He

stands 5'11" and weighs 140 lbs. Also a bachelor, this BSCE undergraduate hails from Sta. Monica, Florida-Alanca, Pampanga. Next to basketball, he fancies singing.

Carlo Jose is 26 years old, stands 5'10", a bachelor and hails from Sta Cruz, Lubac, Pampanga. He works as a room steward at the Bayan Palace and has reading for his other interest.

Romulo Camacho is a forward standing 5'5". He is a bachelor from Manila and has been with KHC for the past 3 years.

Ernesto Soliman is the court general of the KHC 5. This 32-year-old guard has been with the KHC basketball team since its formation. He stands 5'4", weighs 135 lbs, and hails from Dau, Pampanga.

Alexander Flores is 26 years old and is a bachelor from Manila. He stands 5'11-1/2" and weighs 74 kgs. He plays the guard position, and works as a waiter at the Bayan Palace.

Ramil Rosales stands 5'11"

and plays the centre-forward positions. He is the youngest KHC dribbler at 21. This bachelor resides at Dinalaga St, East Bagong Barrio, Caloocan City. He has been with KHC for nearly 3 years.

Abel Lising stands 5'9", weighs 138 lbs, is 28 years old and hails from Dau, Pampanga. This bachelor has been with KHC for almost three years and regards chess, volleyball, and listening to music as his other hobbies.

Enrico Ramirez is a 5'10" guard from Tondo Manila. He is 28 years of age, 180 lbs, still a bachelor, and works at Bayan Palace.

Renato Ong is 33 years of age, stands 5'10" and weighs 80 kgs. He is still a bachelor, and hails from Manila. He has been employed by KHC for almost 3 years now as a waiter.

Ramon Carlos is a bachelor from Manila playing the forward slot for the KHC 5. He is 25 years of age and has been in Kuwait for the past two years, working at the



The Overland basketball squad.

Bayan Palace. Ferdinand Abubo is 22 years old, stands 5'8", weighs 70 kgs, a bachelor from Novaliches, Quezon City. Ferdie has been in Kuwait for the past 3 years, and prior to his KHC stint, he was with KDD and KPBC (88). He works as a waiter at the Bayan Palace.

Overland

The Overland Transport Co. basketball team is composed of team manager Walid A. Muffareh, Board of Governors representative Edgar Espiritu, coach Francisco Malonzo, Eddie Pineda, Gregorio Moya, Augusto Navarro, Oscar Martinez, Sansin Ramalla, Eddie Edrosalan, Manolito Nicodemus, Renato Dabul, Maximino Villa Jr, Jesus Romulo Cabanban, Pastor Veluz, Mario Santos, Edgar Geronimo, Pedro Buntales, Jess Gutierrez and Manuel Atendido.

Team manager-Walid A. Muffareh is a Kuwaiti national

working at the Overland Transport Co. as a general service manager. He is 29 years old, stands 191 cms and weighs 95 kgs.

Edgar Espiritu is a 39-year-old, hails from Bustos, Bulacan. He has been in Kuwait for the past 9 years, and currently employed by OTC as a driver. He is the representative of the OTC basketball team to the KPBL Board of Governors.

Francisco Bhoj Malonzo is the team coach of OTC. This 39-year-old BS Agriculture graduate is a section foreman for the Overland Transport Co, and he has been in Kuwait for the past 8 years. He hails from San Pedro-San Simon, Pampanga.

Eddie Pineda is a 37-year-old driver working at the OTC. He stands 5'9", plays the guard-forward positions, and hails from Pampanga. He has been in Kuwait for almost 3 years and is currently working as a driver for OTC.

Gregorio Moya is a forward standing 5'9". He is 32 years of age and hails from Baliuag, Bulacan. He has been in Kuwait for almost 3 years and he works for OTC as a driver. Moya was a member of the controversial KPBC basketball team that withdrew from last year's KPBL Games.

Augusto Navarro is a 29-year-old guard-forward from Zamboanga City. He is the key man for the OTC 5 and nicknamed "Billy Ray-Hulk Hogan" for his resemblance to the two well known personalities. He has been with OTC for the past 2 years and he works as a driver.

Oscar Martinez is also a driver for the OTC, doubling as a centre for the OTC 5, this 40-year-old veteran is from Batangas City. This bachelor stands 5'11" and weighs 180 lbs.

Sansin Ramalla plays the forward slot and is 33 years of age. He stands 5'6", weighs 130 lbs and hails from Limasawa. He works as an engine calibrator for OTC.

Eddie Edrosalan is 5'6" in height and weighs 150 lbs. He plays the guard position and hails from Calaguman, Samar.

Bataan. He is 35 years old and currently works for OTC as a driver.

Monolito Nicodemus is the slotman for the OTC 5. He is 34 years old, stands 6'11" and hails from Obando, Bulacan. He is new in Kuwait, and finds the country OK with KPBL's activities. He works as a heavy duty driver for OTC.

Renato Dahu is 34 year old, 5'7-1/2" in height, weighs 130 lbs and plays the guard-forward position for the OTC 5. He is also new in Kuwait and is currently employed by OTC as a heavy duty driver.

Maximo Villa Jr is 30 years old and stands 5'8". He is from Iloilo City and plays the guard-forward positions for OTC 5. He also plays football, volleyball, and chess. He is also a new face in Kuwait, and he also works for OTC as a driver.

Jesus Cabanban is a 31-year-old, stands 5'10", weighs 130 lbs, still a bachelor and hails from San Fernando La Union. He plays the guard-centre.

Pastor Veluz is from Talon Las Pinas, Manila. This 35 year old bachelor is new in Kuwait, and currently works as a driver for OTC.

Edgar Geronimo is also a driver for OTC. He is 33 years old and hails from Pandi, Bulacan. He is 5'10" — 165 lbs. Forward and has been in Kuwait for almost 3 years.

Pedro Buntales is also a driver for OTC, 33-year-old, 5'6" in height and weighs 135 lbs. He has been with OTC for the past 2-1/2 years, and he is from Candelaria, Quezon.

Jess Gutierrez is a 33-year-old graduate and is currently with OTC as a driver. He plays the forward position.

Manuel Atendido is 36 years old and hails from Palanan, Marikina. He also plays the forward position, and is with OTC as a workshop technician inspector. Next to basketball, he fancies volleyball, and swimming. He stands 5'8" and weighs 164 lbs.

Nibblers finish in 3rd spot

THE final league action of the season has been played out in the Mouchel Ladies League, and the last remaining ladies places sorted out.

Victories the previous Wednesday by Zero Down and Barbed Comments had already settled first and second places, and it was left to Nibblers to determine the awards for third spot. Zero Down's baptism season was crowned with a defeat championship in their toughest game of the season at home to Lady Tossers who were placed 3rd.

However, Pat D'Mello and the remainder of her team rose magnificently to the occasion to win the match and the title in style. As with any competition, someone has to lose, and despite an excellent season Jackie McLeod and Dawn O'Dowd found themselves a very narrow second best, the final micky mouse leg typifying the standard of play, as Zero Down clinched the game with a 623-480 scoreline — a season high.

Endeavour
Nibblers themselves had a tough task at Finlaster but came through well enough in the end to take 3rd place from the Tossers by two points, one point adrift of Barbed Comments. Second and third place teams this year are particularly deserving, as both Nibblers and Barbed Comments have spent the majority of their previous years languishing in the lower half of the table. For both it is just reward for several seasons' endeavour.

The final award of the ladies season saw Two Pys left with the wooden spoon. Fintas Floesies looked set to emulate their men's team and retain their 1989-90 position, but a splendid win against Northern Lights meant that Two Pys would have to beat Chockers to avoid last place. However, Helen Wilson and her girls would have none of it, and proceeded to save the Floesies blushes for them.

There were no last minute claims for trophies to add to the 54 already awarded, although Jane Drake, Christine Jorgensen, Jane Thomas, Ina Moss, Wendy Lindley and Evelina Breznik all made additional high scores, and the two recipients of ladies 140 awards this year will be Mary Slattery (MEE) and Anne Thomson (Northern Lights).

Mary Slattery has double reason to celebrate as her 91 finish is confirmed as the season's highest, narrowly pipping Effie by Eileen Waffers and Hilary Milne, and Tossers' Dawn O'Dowd has some consolation in that her 77 high score was the most this year by a lady and wins this season's award.

The final Mouchel Ladies Wednesday League results were as follows:

Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Zero Down	19	13	5	1	55	21	31
Barbed Comments	19	12	5	2	51	23	30
Nibblers	19	12	5	2	50	26	29
Lady Tossers	19	11	5	3	49	26	27
Bulls Hitters	19	10	6	3	46	30	26
Blackouts	19	9	7	3	46	30	25
Fintas Floesies	19	8	5	6	40	35	21
Equallisers	19	7	9	3	46	29	23
Middle E	19	8	5	6	40	35	21
Fitas	19	6	8	5	41	35	20
Absolutely	19	8	2	9	38	38	18
Franchise	19	7	4	8	38	38	18
Avengers	19	6	5	8	36	39	17
Chockers	19	4	9	6	37	39	17
Mugs Away	19	6	4	9	35	41	16
Blackouts	19	6	4	9	32	46	16
Hogan B	19	2	9	8	30	46	13
Northern L	19	4	2	13	28	50	10
Jahangir G	19	2	5	12	25	53	9
Fintas F	19	3	2	14	18	58	8
Two Pys	19	1	4	14	19	57	6

Standings

Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Zero Down	19	13	5	1	55	21	31
Barbed Comments	19	12	5	2	51	23	30
Nibblers	19	12	5	2	50	26	29
Lady Tossers	19	11	5	3	49	26	27
Bulls Hitters	19	10	6	3	46	30	26
Blackouts	19	9	7	3	46	30	25
Fintas Floesies	19	8	5	6	40	35	21
Equallisers	19	7	9	3	46	29	23
Middle E	19	8	5	6	40	35	21
Fitas	19	6	8	5	41	35	20
Absolutely	19	8	2	9	38	38	18
Franchise	19	7	4	8	38	38	18
Avengers	19	6	5	8	36	39	17
Chockers	19	4	9	6	37	39	17
Mugs Away	19	6	4	9	35	41	16
Blackouts	19	6	4	9	32	46	16
Hogan B	19	2	9	8	30	46	13
Northern L	19	4	2	13	28	50	10
Jahangir G	19	2	5	12	25	53	9
Fintas F	19	3	2	14	18	58	8
Two Pys	19	1	4	14	19	57	6

Rival offer
SHEFFIELD, England, March 13. (Reuters) Sheffield United director Paul Woolhouse said yesterday he had made a rival offer to Iraqi businessman Sam Hashimi's bid for controlling interest of the English Second Division club.

Richards apologises over 'African' remark England-W. Indies Test fails to start



Richards: a pologises again

GEORGETOWN, March 13. (Reuters) Play was called off without a ball being bowled for the third consecutive day in the second Test between West Indies and England yesterday.

Heavy rain washed out the first two days and left the outfield too wet for play on the third.

England suffered a casualty despite there not being any cricket, middle order batsman Nasser Hussain injuring a wrist when he slipped while playing tennis at the team hotel.

Hussain, named in England's 12 for the Test, fell on a damp patch and sprained his left wrist. He went to hospital for a precautionary X-ray.

England captain Graham Gooch said: "There has to be a problem, but we will have to see how much Nasser's injury improves in the next 48 hours."

Bright sunshine combined with a strong wind helped to persuade the umpires to delay their decision to call off play until 3 pm (1800 GMT) even though there appeared to be no chance of play at the start of the day.

The groundstaff performed an admirable mopping-up operation but could do nothing about the bowlers' run-up from the southern end, which at midday resembled a bog, and the boundary edges which only 24 hours earlier were submerged by water which in some places was more

than 15 cms deep.

If there is no further rain, play is expected to start on the fourth day tomorrow, following today's rest day.

However, clouds were building up again by yesterday evening and threatening to put an end to the sunshine.

West Indies cricket captain Viv Richards has apologised again over recent remarks in which he spoke about the West Indies team being one of 'African descent'.

Richards issued a second statement seeking to clarify his comments yesterday.

His latest statement was apparently prompted by criticisms from Trinidad and Tobago where an Indo-Trinidadian politician called for a second apology after he had issued one here.

West Indies go to Trinidad for the third Test against England starting in Port-of-Spain on March 23.

In his statement released to the media, Richards said: "It would appear that remarks which I made about the performance of the sports team of 'African descent' of the Caribbean have prompted responses from some Caribbean countries."

"I would like to clarify the situation emphasising the significant contribution that people of all races have made to the

development and present stature of West Indies cricket and I am sorry if I have offended any particular group of people."

The West Indian captain's remarks appeared in a newspaper in his home island of Antigua.

West Indies middle order batsman Gus Logie, prevented by injury from playing in both the first cricket Test in Kingston and the second here, has recovered and is to lead the President's XI against England this weekend.

Logie, who injured a finger playing for Trinidad last month, and fast bowler Patrick Patterson are the only current Test men named for the four-day game at Guaymas Park, Point-A-Pierre, Trinidad, starting on Saturday.

West Indies selectors have chosen a side containing a number of Test prospects, including Trinidad batsman Brian Lara and Jamaican all-rounder Robert Haynes.

President's XI: Gus Logie (Trinidad, captain), Brian Lara (Trinidad), Clayton Lambert (Guyana), Delroy Morgan (Jamaica), Jimmy Adams (Jamaica), Dawley Joseph (Windward Islands), Robert Haynes (Jamaica), Livingstone Harris (Leeward Islands), Eldine Baptiste (Leeward Islands), Kenneth Benjamin (Leeward Islands), Patrick Patterson (Jamaica).



A filephoto of Gatting surrounded by protesters during the tour.

Second rebel tour off, says Gatting

LONDON, March 13. (Reuters) Mike Gatting, who captained the English rebel cricketers on their recent troubled tour of South Africa, said yesterday that next winter's planned visit had been called off.

Gatting, who was expected to return to South Africa as captain for a second tour starting in November, said on a satellite television station programme here: "I will not be going back. The tour itself has been called off."

Former England Test captain Gatting said the organisers had called off the proposed follow-up tour because they wanted to thrash out a compromise with the National Sports Congress (NSC), the sporting arm of the African National Congress (ANC) which orchestrated the successful attempts to force the tour to be cut short last month.

Gatting, who ran the gauntlet of angry protesters during the recent trip, said on his return from South Africa last week that he thought he would be going back because he still had a contract for another year.

The rebel team skipper said the decision to call off the second tour was taken by the organisers, the South African Cricket Union (SACU), who "wanted to sit down and talk and compromise with the NSC."

Gatting, who was thought to have been paid in full for his role as captain of the touring side, also revealed he had been paid only 40 per cent of his original contract fee because of the tour's curtailment. He said this amounted to less than £60,000 (\$96,000).

Meanwhile, anti-apartheid activists opposed to the recent tour claimed victory today.

Krish Naidoo, general secretary of the anti-apartheid NSC, said the organisers had agreed to cancel the second leg in return for an undertaking by the NSC to stop protests against the troubled first leg last month.

"This is part of the deal," Naidoo said in a telephone interview. "We hope that the example of the cricket tour would serve as a lesson to all sports here that there is no room for rebel tours until we have fully non-racial sport."

Ali Bacher, managing director of SACU said it would make a statement after a board meeting in the Cape Province town of East London tomorrow.

"It would be inappropriate for me to comment until then," he said. The tour violated an anti-government ban on sporting contacts with South Africa. Dozens of people were injured in clashes between protesters and police during demonstrations against the opening matches in January.

Naidoo said the deal, struck towards the end of the first leg of the tour, was that SACU would cancel the second leg and a Test and three one-day matches from the first leg.

In return the NSC agreed not to demonstrate against the four one-day matches that remained, he said.

Haugen outlasts Cruz

LAS VEGAS, March 13. (AP) Former International Boxing Federation lightweight champion Greg Haugen stopped Memo Cruz of Mexico City by technical knockout in the final round of their 10-round welterweight bout last night.

Haugen ended the fight at 1:01 of the 10th, after a flurry of punches opened a cut over the right eye of the already battered Cruz.

Haugen, who held the IBF 135-pound crown twice between 1986 and 1989, worked Cruz' head and body in the first six rounds.

Haugen's punches closed Cruz' left eye in the sixth and began forcing his other eye to close in the ninth.

Haugen is 24-2-1 with 12 wins by knockout. Cruz, also 140, dropped to 17-4.

Nomads outclass Exiles at home

KUWAIT NOMADS thrashed Dubai Exiles R.F.C. 17-6 when the latter came to Kuwait over the weekend for a vital rugby league fixture. A win for Dubai would certainly have secured them the title but Kuwait's recent 24-0 win in Bahrain had put them back in title contention and they were in no mood to let the visitors to go home victorious.

The first half saw Kuwait choosing to play into a very strong wind. Dubai predictably kept Kuwait pinned down in their own 22 metre area. However it was Kuwait's discipline at the ruck which could have cost them dear. Dubai's Dave Newby was unlucky to succeed with only one of his four penalty attempts, and this gave Dubai an early 3-0 lead.

A strong blind side break in the Dubai half led to a penalty for Kuwait, which has superbly put over against the wind by Noel Kelly. The strong wind meant Kuwait attempted to run the ball at Dubai but a combination of strong tackling and poor handling meant little headway was made.

In the scrums Kuwait defin-



Steve Hutchinson Jr

itely had the upper hand and a strong run by Andy Hopkins from one of these was only just halted on the line. From the resulting five metre scrum the Kuwait pack drove Dubai backwards. Fancy footwork at the base of the scrum led to a try for captain Steve Hill, a just reward for the hard work of the front five. This 7-6 lead could have been extended right on half time when Garry Hill fed good ball to the backs but unfortunately Kel-



Graham Adams

ly's hands were not as reliable as his boot. In the second half Dubai fought back with much courage, but the wind now allowed Graham Adams to keep Dubai pinned back. The second half against the head in the scrum for Andy Winfield led to the ball going wide where Ellis threw a horrible pass along the ground, but winger Glyn Gatland managed to take it off the floor to score. Adams managed to con-

vert from the touchline, a superb effort even if it needed two attempts.

At 13-6 lead seemed a good cushion for Kuwait but Dubai continued to run the ball and more than once breached the middle defence. Colin Ashwood made one excellent try saving tackle and the covering in defence of flanker Tony Sole was most definitely needed.

With only five minutes to go the ball was again moved wide towards Gatland who received yet another bounce pass this time from Steve Hill. The Nomads held the ball as the ball popped up nicely for Gatland to score his second try of the match.

The most striking feature of Kuwait (KMMC) Nomads' victory was the play of debut scrum half Steve Hutchinson Jr. He showed great maturity through the game and his sniping runs kept the opposition on its toes. His services to fly half Adams was first rate and he proved himself to be a star of the future.

Thus Kuwait travel to Dubai in two weeks time for what could be the deciding test for this year's Gulf League Championship.

Colts announce cricket team for Bhutto final

LANKA Colts have announced their team to play Evergreen in the final of Bhutto Memorial Cricket Trophy on Friday at the EPI Grounds. They have a fairly balanced side including Nakala and Ramzan, the two very reliable consistent openers with the bat. In the middle order batting, Chris Senaka and Hiran are capable of tearing any bowling apart. Nakala and Solomonson will share the new ball.

The slow bowling will be in the hands of two left armers Ralph D'Niese and Lal Premasiri who will be helped by the two right arm off-break bowlers Oliver and Ramzan. Ralph and Lal in particular can mesmerize any batsman with their well flighted, good length and accurately pitched deliveries.

The full team will be: Hiran Fernando (captain), Ralph D'Niese, Chris Amarasekera, Roville Goonasekera, Wilhelm Solomonson, Oliver Perera, Lal Premasiri, Senaka, Nakala, Ramzan Sarifudeen, Carlyle and Rohan Peris.

Evergreens are keeping their team secret and will be announced on the eve of the match.

Raiders to return to Oakland

LOS ANGELES, March 13. (Reuters) Los Angeles Raiders owner Al Davis has decided to take his National Football League (NFL) team back to Oakland in a deal worth \$600 million, according to an official of the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum, where the team has played for the last eight seasons.

Coliseum board member Richard Riordan told reporters: "I'd like to congratulate Oakland. I wish the Raiders the best of luck."

Davis, attending an NFL owners meeting in Orlando, Florida, was not immediately available.

Davis had been made offers by four California cities vying for the big bucks an NFL franchise can bring. In addition to Oakland and Los Angeles, Sacramento and the Los Angeles suburb of Irwindale also tried to tempt the Raiders.

But in order to get big bucks, you have to put out big bucks, and Oakland's \$600 million offer was the most attractive and won back the Raiders, who had brought two Super Bowl championships to Oakland.

Oakland's offer includes \$53.5 million in stadium improvements, a \$54.9 million relocation fee, and guarantees of \$28 million a year in ticket revenues over the 15-year term of the lease.

Los Angeles' offer included spending \$140 million on rebuilding the coliseum and at least \$70 million in fees and guarantees to the Raiders.

Riordan said Davis had accepted the deal yesterday morning.

However, the silver and black uniforms of the Raiders may be seen in Los Angeles for another two seasons. The Raiders' lease with the Coliseum runs through the 1991 season, though a settlement could allow them to leave sooner.

Sacramento, the state capital, dropped out of the running in February and Irwindale, a small town nestled in the foothills of the San Gabriel mountains, fell from contention in January.

Many people laughed at the audacity of Irwin, population little more than 10,000, in thinking it could attract the Raiders.

But the town was serious. It gave Davis \$10 million in advance, with the promise of building a new \$115 million stadium on a gravel pit.

Davis, however, had the last laugh. He pocketed the \$10 million when Irwindale had to forfeit it because the town could not raise the \$115 million. The Oakland City Council was due to formally ratify its offer to Davis last night.

Klein dies, at 69

SAN DIEGO, California, March 13. (AP) Former San Diego Chargers owner Gene Klein, who left the National Football League to make his mark as one of the toughest horse racing's most successful owners, died yesterday. He was 69.

A recipient at Klein's Del Ray ranch in Rancho Santa Fe confirmed Klein "passed away this morning. We'll be releasing a statement."

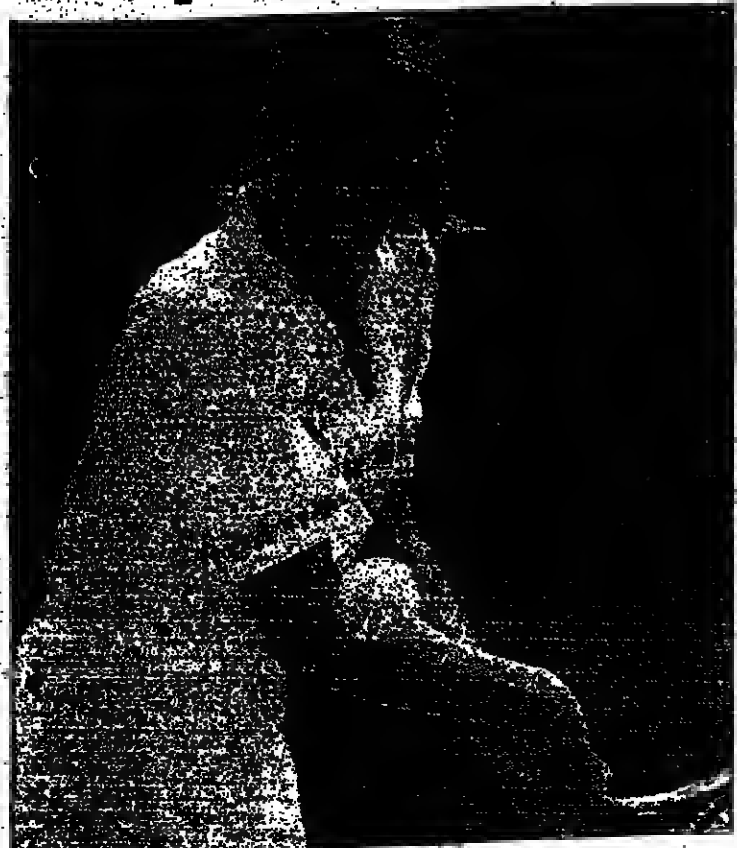
Chargers club spokesman Rnb Boulware also said the organization had been informed of Klein's death and was preparing a statement.

Klein sold the Chargers to Alex Spanos on Aug 1, 1984, for about \$80 million.

Klein had owned the Chargers since Aug 25, 1966, when he headed a group that purchased the club for \$10 million from Barron Hilton.

Following the sale of the club, Klein became heavily involved in thoroughbred racing. With D. Wayne Lukas training his horses, he became one of the sports leading owners and one of his fillies, Winning Colours, captured the 1988 Kentucky Derby.

Capriati to aim for Grand Slam events



Capriati: needs a little experience

BOCA RATON, Florida, March 13. (AP) At age 13, Jennifer Capriati has the world — at least most of it — ahead of her.

Her father and coach, Stefano, said he will try not to face her with too much, too soon. But he expects to have her compete in Italy, Germany, France, "definitely England for Wimbledon," probably all the Grand Slam events.

"Since she surprised everybody," he said, "we'll just see what happens."

Following the sensational professional debut that brought her to the finals Sunday of the \$350,000 Virginia Slims tournament, Jennifer was pleased with her start but reluctant to look too far ahead.

Will she be the next American champion? "I don't know," said Capriati, whose birthday is March 29. "I'm not going to say. I'm just going to try to be the best that I can be."

Third-ranked Gabriela Sabatini, who pricked Capriati's balloon with a 6-4, 7-5 victory Sunday, doesn't think all the excitement and speculation is

misplaced.

"She just started professionally. The matches she won here gives her a little confidence. She needs a little experience."

"I think she could be there. I think she will beat the top soon," Sabatini said.

The 19-year-old Argentine agreed with comparisons of Capriati to Chris Evert, the newly retired star who is, as Capriati, a south Florida native. Sabatini said the two are similar physically and play very similar games.

Evert, who gave Capriati some advice before her match with Sabatini, said Capriati is stronger and more aggressive than she was.

Even her first loss after five victories, four over top 40 players, couldn't dim the smiles on the faces of the Capriati family.

"Sabatini played one of the best matches of her life to win," Stefano said. "At this stage for Jennifer, it does not matter if she wins or loses. It matters if she plays good or bad. She fought. She proved this week that she belongs with these girls."

Capriati, youngest pro player to reach the finals of a major tournament in modern times, took Monday off, doing some shopping, and returned to eighth-grade classes in Saddlebrook, Florida, today.

"I'm going to take about two days to rest and get regrouped," said Capriati, who will compete this weekend in the Lipton International Players Championship in Key Biscayne, Florida, where Sabatini is the defending champion and will be the top seed, as she was here.

Jennifer said she has been keeping up her homework, which was sent to the tournament by telephone facsimile machine.

"She's such a good girl," said her mother, Denise. "I never have to tell her to do her homework."

Jennifer pledged not to let her initial success overwhelm her. "Personally, no, it doesn't affect me. I'm still going to be normal," she said, dissolving into giggles.

Tour veterans were delighted with the bubbly new star.

World's richest tourney to be held in W. Germany

MUNICH, West Germany, March 13. (Reuters) The first Grand Slam Cup, the world's richest and most controversial tennis tournament, will be held in Munich from December 11-16.

International Tennis Federation (ITF) chief Philippe Chatrier told a news conference yesterday Munich would host it for the first three years and other West German cities in the two following years.

The tournament is worth \$6 million, of which two million will go to the winner and one million to the losing finalist in the 16-man field.

SPORTS

Nigeria to face Algeria in African Nations Cup soccer final

ALGIERS, March 13. (Reuters): Nigeria unexpectedly reached the African Nations Cup soccer final yesterday by beating Zambia 2-0 in Addis Ababa.

Nigeria's opponents in Friday's final will be Algeria, who beat Senegal

2-1 in the other semifinal tie here a few hours earlier.

The Nigerians grabbed the lead through Uche Okechukwu, who headed home from a corner after 16 minutes.

Nigeria played defensively for the

rest of the first half, although star striker Rasheed Yekini came close to scoring from an excellent pass by Elabbor.

Although they often dominated with high quality soccer, the Zambians were unable to break down a solid

Nigerian defence.

In the second half, Zambia increased their pressure but could not make the most of chances created by Webby Chikabala, Derby Mankinda and Wileson Changwe.

Yekini clinched Nigeria's victory

14 minutes from the end with a skillful close-range shot.

The Zambians produced a late assault but Nigeria had the best chance to score in the dying minutes.

Ayo Ogunlana found himself with only goalkeeper David Chabala to

beat but missed the chance through bad control.

Nigeria had been considered the weakest of the semifinalists. They were crushed 5-1 by Algeria in the opening game of the tournament and edged into the last four with uncon-

vincing 1-0 wins over Egypt and the Ivory Coast.

The final gives Algeria a chance to avenge their defeat by Nigeria in the 1980 African Cup final in Lagos, and to win their first Cup after a decade of near misses.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Al Mulla cricket

THE finals of the "All Mulla Mitsuishi" Friday League cricket tournament organised by Unity Cricketers will be played on Friday at the New Ground in Ahmadi. Starline face Kifan in this full day game consisting of 45 overs. Starting time is 0900 hrs. Umpires officiating are (2) from Unity. The chief guest is Ivan Pacheco, director (DGM) Al Mulla Group of Companies and the prize distribution will take place in the evening the same day.

Ida football

GOA Maroons entered the quarter-finals of the Seventh Ida Memorial football tournament organised by the Goa Cultural Association by defeating Breeze 2-0 (half-time 1-0). The goals were scored by Jose D'Souza and Jaser Ferrao in the 25th and 55th minute respectively. The second match between D'Assisi and New Goa Association was cancelled due to the sudden death of Gwyneth Rebello (wife of Nicholas) a player of New Goa Association.

Japan tennis

TOKYO, March 13. (AP): Ivano Lendl of Czechoslovakia, the world's top-ranked player, and last year's French Open champion Michael Chang of the United States will lead a field of 56 male players in the \$1.15 million Suntory Japan tennis championship April 9-15, organisers said today.

Evans honoured

INDIANAPOLIS, March 13. (AP): This time, Janet Evans didn't have to clap while the Sullivan award went to someone else. Evans, a three-time gold medalist in the 1988 Seoul Olympics who set one world and two American swimming records last year, was honoured last night as the nation's top amateur athlete of 1989.

NBA games

NEW YORK, March 13. (Reuters): Results of National Basketball Association (NBA) games played yesterday:

L.A. Lakers 107 Charlotte 102
Milwaukee 109 New Jersey 104
San Antonio 92 Minnesota 88
Seattle 130 Orlando 105
Golden State 112 L.A. Clippers 109

Gathers buried

PHILADELPHIA, March 13. (AP): Hank Gathers, the college basketball star who died playing the game he loved, was consigned to "God's hall of fame" in a hometown funeral to which hundreds of fans gathered by loud-speaker outside the church.

Millwall player

LONDON, March 13. (UPI): Republic of Ireland international Tony Cascarino's proposed move from English First Division strugglers Millwall to League leader Aston Villa went to hold late yesterday after the clubs agreed a transfer fee of reportedly more than £1.5 million (\$2.4 million).

Clydebank win

GLASGOW, March 13. (Reuters): Clydebank beat St Mirren 3-2 in a Scottish Football Association (FA) Cup fourth round replay yesterday. Clydebank are now at home to Stirling in the quarterfinals on Saturday, March 17.

UAE coach

ABU DHABI, March 13. (Reuters): The United Arab Emirates have recalled Brazilian Carlos Alberto to coach them through the World Cup soccer finals after their dismal performance in the Gulf Cup.

"Alberto has worked with us for four years and achieved good results," UAE Football Association chairman Sheikh Hamdan bin Zaid Al Nahyan told reporters today.

BRIDGE

RESULTS of the Hubara Centre Bridge Club game held on Saturday:

1. Nabil Akef & Narendra Shah
2. Aurora & Johnny
3. Lollo Merthwaite & Nabil Akef

1. Ezzeldin & Mohammad Elbez
2. Rassam & Araleh
3. Suhendan & Mahi Oskay

Results of the SAS Ladies Bridge Club game held on Sunday morning:

1. Nabil Akef & Lollo Merthwaite
2. Dora Matany & Bianca Mousalli

Results of the Barclay Cigarette (5th week) tournament held at the Regency premises on Sunday:

1. Shebli Jadaa & Ali Boukhrie
2. Said Al Saleh & Adam Mousalli
3. Carsten Buus & Stansley Drexler

1. Suhendan & Melih Oskay
2. Ezzeldin & Ahmed Hneidy
3. Grigorou & Djabarski

Results of the Messiah Ladies Bridge Club game on Monday:

1. Elaina Kerala & Grela Chakhtoura
2. Lollo Merthwaite & Dora Matany

Winston Cigarettes will be holding their mixed pairs tournament at the SAS Hotel on Friday, March 16, at 2:00 pm.

Juventus' form may save Zoff

Schillaci may get Cup place

LONDON, March 13. (Reuters): The return to form of Juventus may yet save trainer Dino Zoff from the sack at the end of the season and also earn Salvatore Schillaci a place in Italy's World Cup side.

Schillaci has proved the surprise of the season, scoring 13 goals for Juventus since his arrival from Second Division Messina, and is the second highest goalscorer behind European Footballer of the Year Marco van Basten.

For months soccer writers have been vainly pushing the 25-year old striker as the possible saviour of the Italian national side, which has scored only one goal in its last five pre-World Cup friendly internationals.

But after yesterday's 3-0 rout of AC Milan, in which Schillaci scored the opening goal for Juventus, Italy manager Azeglio Vicini said the Sicilian would probably be called up for the March 31 friendly against Switzerland.

"There isn't much more time for experiments but we all know Schillaci's talents very well," Vicini said.

And those talents could be the salvation of Zoff, the former Italy captain and goalkeeper whose future has been in doubt for weeks after a poor start to the season and rumours that Bologna manager Luigi Maifredi was to replace him.

Fans cheered and sang the praises of Zoff after Sunday's classy performance against



Van Basten (left) with Libregts.

leaders AC Milan which moved them into third place and closed the gap to five points.

Last month they drew 0-0 at home with Milan in the first leg of the Italian Cup final and victory in the second leg and success in the UEFA Cup, where they are well placed to advance after their

2-0 first leg quarterfinal victory at Hamburg last week, may alter the fortunes of the much-loved trainer.

"Zoff's contract is for two years. When it expires at the end of June the board will decide what to do," said Giovanni Agnelli, Fiat boss and owner of

Juventus.

Speculation continues to grow in the Dutch press over whether national coach Thijs Libregts will lead the Netherlands, who drew 0-0 with Italy in Rotterdam last month, to the World Cup finals in June.

Libregts is scheduled to meet Dutch Soccer Association (KNVB) officials later this week to discuss his contract which expires on July 1, a week before the tournament ends.

Dutch newspapers believe a refusal to extend the contract would make it impossible for Libregts to remain as national coach for the finals.

Leading players such as Van Basten and Ruud Gullit have made no secret of their dissatisfaction with Libregts, who took over from Rinus Michels after the Dutch won the 1988 European Championship.

One Dutch newspaper reports Gullit, Van Basten and Ajax captain Jan Wouters lobbying for Barcelona coach Johan Cruyff to take over.

Wouters is in hot water after television cameras filmed him elbowing Volendam's Aex Pastoor in the face during Sunday's 0-0 draw.

The referee missed the incident but said he would report it to the KNVB. Last season Wouters was suspended after television film showed him stamping on the band of another Volendam player.

He will, however, be in action

Maradona key to World Cup: Bilardo

PARIS, March 13. (Reuters): Diego Maradona will be the key to Argentina's chances of retaining the World Cup at this summer's finals in Italy, trainer Carlos Bilardo said in an interview published today.

The Argentine coach told the weekly France Football he was not alarmed at his team's failure to score in any of their last eight matches and was confident they could peak in Italy.

"But without a great Maradona, we have a team like any other," he said. "With him, we have an advantage. Diego is four years older but his skills will make the difference. He is very motivated. He wants to prove he is still the number one."

Bilardo said he was more worried by his other players than by Maradona's erratic play for Napoli in the Italian League.

He denied criticism that he had adopted defensive tactics and said his team was not scoring goals because too many players were

foreign-based and had not enough time to train together.

"All the Argentine strikers play abroad," he said. "When I can get them, it's one or two days before a match. You can't expect anything good like that."

Bilardo said he had persuaded Jorge Valdano, formerly of Real Madrid and a member of the 1986 World Cup winning side in Mexico, to come out of retirement because he needed a forward with ability in the air.

But he denied that Maradona had influenced him not to recall Monaco striker Pamon Diaz, who has been on superb form in the French League this season. Argentine president Carlos Menem even urged Bilardo recently to bring back the former Inter Milan player.

"I could be interested in him but I'm thinking more of (Claudio) Caniggia, (Gustavo)

Dezotti, Valdano and (Abel) Balbo," he said. "Diego has never tried to influence me for or against any player."

Bilardo said Nantes midfielder Jorge Burruchaga, who scored the winning goal in the 1986 final, would be another key member of the side in Italy even though he only recently returned after injury problems lasting almost two years.

Goalkeeper Nery Pumpido, defender Oscar Ruggeri and midfielder Sergio Batista would also form the nucleus.

"The team is not good at the moment... but the World Cup doesn't start until June 8. I will have everybody together for 45 days from April 29, it will be enough," he said.

Apart from Argentina, Bilardo said he saw West Germany, Italy, Spain, the Netherlands and Brazil as the favourites.

As for surprise teams, the trainer was adamant: "There will be no surprises."

WBA title fight

GROSSETO, Italy, March 13. (Reuters): When South African Brian Mitchell defends his World Boxing Association (WBA) junior light-weight title tomorrow against American Jackie Beard his main concern will be keeping his face in one piece.

Proned to cuts and a profuse bleed, Mitchell ended his last two title fights with blood streaming down his face from gashes above the eye, looking more like the loser than the champion.

Midfielders Hansi Dorrner of Munich and Uwe Bein of Frankfurt, and striker Frank Mill were among those injured players who came along to spectate at Beckenbauer's last season.

But Beckenbauer is still hopeful for the next national squad training session scheduled



Habib (left) and Burfoot at the news conference.

10th Middle East Kart Championship

Top karters to contest

By Diana Abou Haidar
Arab Times staff

A NUMBER of the world's top karters will take part in the 10th Middle East Kart Championship this weekend at Ahmadi, said Imad Mahdi Habib, general manager of Mahdi Habib Commercial Establishment — sponsor of the event.

"It is going to be a very special race that requires a lot of effort and courage on the part of drivers," announced Habib at a news conference last night. He added that the race has been organised by the World Karting Federation.

The event which is patronised by Sheikh Fahd Al Ahmed Al Sabab, will feature races for individual drivers and races for teams. "Each team will consist of

four drivers. Among the teams that have been formed are the Mahdi Habib team and the Mesilah Beach team," said Habib.

First prize winner will be awarded \$1,000, second prize winner \$750 and third \$500, in addition to the championship's trophy and medals.

Preliminaries will commence Thursday afternoon with all drivers racing against the clock to achieve their fastest lap times which will determine their places in the grids for the heat that begins Friday noon. The penalty points accumulated in the heats determine a driver's position in the grid in the first final and his grid position for the second and third final will be determined from accumulated penalty points up to that time. The winner of the championship will be

the driver with the lowest penalties from two out of three finals.

Drivers from Kuwait, UAE, Lebanon, Netherlands, Canada, Cyprus, USA, Austria, Malaysia and the UK are expected to take part in the race.

Kuwaiti drivers will undoubtedly have a considerable advantage over the visitors by their first hand knowledge of this testing 905-metre circuit, with only a few of the visiting drivers having previously driven in Kuwait, according to the Ahmadi Kart Racing Committee.

Among the participating champions will be Sheikh Hasher bin Khalifa Al Maktoum of Dubai, Franz Wurz of Austria and Patrick Walsh of the United Kingdom.

Further information on the championship could be obtained from David Burfoot at 4732956.

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